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A REVERY.

The voices of the Past in varied tones
Speak to my soul to-night and will not hush.
At thousand de ds they whisper of the years,—
The long forgotten years,—when life was young,
And Joy and Hope were linked with golden chains;
When every pulse beat to the music of the heart,
And every breath was drawn in Faith and Love.

They tell of manhood's grapple with the world,
When heart was strong and will sublime—nothing
As with imperious tread the mountain's top
Became as mud before the waving wand;
And earth's coldest shapes of Fear but seemed,
At its approach, dim spectres fading into air.

They tell of scenes of mirth and revelry,
When earth seemed decked in garlands bright and fair;
When Pleasure with a golden scepter sat
Within the charm'd circle of my life
And claimed the wildest homage of my heart.
They tell of hours of darkness, too, when Grief
Sat sternly on her throne, with face so pale
That corpse-like it did seem amidst the gloom.

Now every voice is still and hushed but two:
The Present stands beside me like a king,
And loudly calls to Action! Whilst around
The circle of my mind there floats a form
Divine—in the garb of Faith and Hope and Love
Which echoes ACTION! ACTION! then in tones
Which seem fresh from the great Throne there comes
The words: "Act in the ETERNAL NOW, so shall
The Future be the Fruit the NOW shall bear,
And as thou dost approach thy hands shall pluck,
And thou shalt eat."
December 31, 1867. H. A. L.

A STEAM MAN.

A Wonderful Piece of Mechanism.

The old adage, which proclaims that "there's nothing new under the sun," has been daringly and yet successfully refuted. Mr. Zaddock Deddrick, a Newark machinist, has invented a man, one that, moved by steam will perform some of the most important functions of humanity; that will, standing upright, walk or run, as he is bid, in any direction and at almost any rate of speed, drawing after him a load whose weight would tax the strength of three stout draught horses. The history of this curious invention is as follows:

Six years ago Mr. Deddrick, the inventor, who is at present but twenty-two years of age, conceived the novel idea of constructing a man that should receive its vitality from a perpetual motion machine. The idea was based on the well known mechanical principle that if a heavy weight be placed at the top of an upright swinging inclined from a vertical, gravitation will tend to produce a horizontal as well as vertical motion.

The project was not successful. However, by observing carefully the cause of the failure, presenting and perfecting the new form, and by substituting steam in place of the perpetual motion machine, the present success was attained.

The man stands seven feet nine inches high, the other dimensions of the body being correctly proportioned, making him a second Daniel Lambert, by which name he is facetiously spoken of among the workmen. He weighs five hundred pounds. Steam is generated in the body or trunk which is made to play a two horse power engine, like those used in our steam fire engines. The legs which support it are complicated and wonderful. The steps are taken very naturally and quite easily. As one limb is thrown forward the balanced foot the other is lifted from the ground by a spring and thrown forward by the steam. Each step or pace advances the body two feet, and every revolution of the engine produces four paces. As the engine is capable of making more than a thousand revolutions a minute, it would get over the ground on this calculation at the rate of a mile more than a mile a minute. As this would be working the legs faster than would be safe on uneven ground or on broad street cobble stones, it is proposed to run the engine at the rate of five revolutions per minute, which would walk the man at the modest speed of half a mile a minute.

The fellow is attached to a common rockaway carriage, the shafts of which serve to support him in a vertical position. These shafts are two bars of iron, which are made fast in the usual manner to the front axle of the carriage, and are curved so as to be joined to a circular sustaining bar, which passes around the waist, half way between the legs of the man moves so as to face in any direction. Besides these motions machinery has been arranged by which the figure can be thrown backward or forward at the will of the driver, forty-five degrees. This is done in order to enable to ascend or descend all grades. To the soles of the feet spikes or corks are fixed which effectually prevent slipping. The whole affair is so firmly sustained by the broad feet and so excellent a foothold that two men are unable to push it over, or in any way throw it down. In order to enable it to stop quickly, it is provided with two brakes, one of which will, as before stated, throw it backward from the vertical, while the other bends the knees in a direction opposite to the natural position.

An upright post, which is arranged in front of the dashboard, and which passes up in front of the front seats, sustains two minature pilot wheels, by the turning of which these various motions and volutions are directed. It is expected that a sufficiently large quantity of fuel can be stowed away under the back seat of the carriage to work the engine for a day, and enough water in a tank under the front seat to last half a day.

In order to prevent "the giant" from frightening horses by its wonderful appearance, Mr. Deddrick intends to clothe it and give it as nearly as possible a likeness to the rest of humanity. The boiler and such parts as of necessarily heated will be encased in felt or woolen under garments. Pants, coat and vest of the latest styles, are provided. Whenever the fires need coaling, which is every two or three hours, the driver will, by touching a spring on his seat, unbuttons "Daniel's" vest opens a door, shovels in the fuel, buttons up the vest and drives on. On the back between the shoulders are placed the ashes scrapers are placed. As these would cause the coat to set awkwardly a knapsack has been provided that compactly covers them. A blanket neatly rolled up and placed on top of the knapsack perfects the disguise. The face is painted into a cheerful countenance of white enamel which contrasts well with the dark hair and moustache. A sheet iron hat with a gauge top acts as a smoke stack.

The cost of the "iron man" is $2,000, though the makers, Messrs. Deddrick & Grass, expect to manufacture succeeding ones, warranted to run a year without repairs, for $500. The same parties expect to construct on the same principle, horses that will do the duty of ten or twelve ordinary animals of the same species. These, it is confidently believed, can be used like before acrriages, street cars and plows. The man now constructed can walk his way over any irregular surface whose ruts and stones are not more than nine inches below or above the level of the road.

Messrs. Deddrick & Crane, at whose works this wonderful affair has been built, have just completed a hardly less marvelous, though by no means as novel a machine. It is a leather splitter, for the Newark Patent Leather Company. It is so nicely constructed that with ease and facility, hides to such extreme thinness that a variation in the knives of a fractional part of the thinness of a sheet of writing paper, would destroy the work. The machine is to be sent to Paris within a few days. —*Newark Advertiser.*

Another British Break Down.

Supplies of the "Gibraltar shield" for coast batteries have been sent by the British government to Malta, Gibraltar, and Bermuda. This shield is composed of three layers of iron—a 5½-inch, a 5-inch, and a 1½-inch plate—bolted together and stayed at the back by iron sheets and girders. From the experiments which had been made on this kind of defense, insufficient though they were, it appeared plain that a shield of the description of the Gibraltar would not be strong enough to resist the heavy projectiles now in use. Nevertheless the contractors were set to work on some thirty-five of these shields, and it appears that they were not actually tested until the 19th ult., after a number of them had been sent off to their station. The result of this experiment is thus set forth by the Pall Mall *Gazette*:

"One shell from the 9-inch gun went clean through the target; and three other projectiles from that gun and one from the Rodman relieved the shield of a large portion of its condition of wreck. The plates were chipped and split, the girders smashed to pieces, the backing was fissured and the plates were buckled. Showers of splinters, nuts, portions of projectiles and bolts and rivets were seut whirling to the rear, setting at naught the mantlet which had been suspended behind to stop them. Not only did the shield prove worthless as a means of defense, but, as was generally observed, it would have been far better for a gun detachment to serve its guns outside such a 'defense' than within it. It is difficult to find a single crumb of comfort in this trial. The shield has proved equally destructible by penetration and by battering. It was clearly shot through by a shell; it was seriously racked by shot; and in neither case was the ordnance opposed to it equal in power to the ordnance which in actual warfare it might have to encounter. If five shots from a 9-inch rifled and a 10-inch smooth-bore gun could place the shield *hors de combat*, how many rounds from a 600-pounder or a 20-inch Rodman would suffice to reduce it to the same condition? It is little more than a rule of three sum; but it is no very pleasant one for an Englishman to be called upon to solve."

As this trial of the Gibraltar shield was not a spontaneous act on the part of the government, but was in a manner forced upon it by the press and in Parliament, the Admiralty are not likely very soon to hear the last of this subject.

According to the Memphis *Bulletin* many Southern planters and overseers have applied to the English Cotton Supply Association for employment in the cotton culture in any region where they can be made available. The applicants are represented to be men of character and position. Ruin and bankruptcy have forced them to this alternative. The offer was discussed at the last meeting of the Association, but the result of the deliberation is not given. The present iniquitous tax on cotton is a boon to foreign culture, and a positive prohibition of the domestic growth, the result of which, in the exhibit of balance of the trade against us, will soon be apparent, even to the ignorant haters of southern prosperity, with whom the tax originated as a punishment and blight.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. V.---NO. 11. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 13, 186.

GEN. WASHINGTON AND THE CONNELSVILLE ROAD.

Interesting Reminiscences----Original Surveys, Etc.

We have referred occasionally to the fact that Washington, the Father of his Country, was the first to discover and advocate the route of the Connellsville road, as superior to all others, between the Eastern and Western States. In proof of this, we now publish copious extracts from a voluminous report of one hundred and twenty-two pages (No. 228) made in Congress by the Hon. Andrew Stewart, in 1826. These facts were derived partly from "Marshall's Life of Washington," but mostly from numerous letters, reports, maps and other papers, in the handwriting of George Washington, furnished by General Mason, the successor of General Washington as President of the Potomac Company.

As these documents (never elsewhere published) exhibit the patriotic and self-sacrificing character of Washington, in a new and highly interesting light, it is due to him, as well as our road, that they should now be made public.

From these documents it appears that General Washington, as early as 1784, the first year after the close of the Revolutionary War, and while the Indians were still hostile, explored on foot and on horseback, the four great lines of communication between the East and West, viz: First, from New York to the Lakes. Second, from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Third, from Washington to Pittsburgh. Fourth, from Richmond by the James river to the West. And after furnishing the distances, the advantages and disadvantages of each, he gives the decided preference to the Connellsville route, as the shortest, cheapest and most central, of which routes he himself made the maps and drawings, having employed surveyors and hands to assist him in running different lines, the whole expense of which he paid out of his private funds, as appears by receipts and other manuscripts found among his papers; the result of all which he lost no time in communicating to the Legislatures of Virginia and Maryland, where he personally attended until he obtained the necessary legislation and appropriations for the commencement of the work, which, as first President of the Company he prosecuted, till he was called to serve his country in a higher sphere.

The Legislature of Virginia, however, in consideration of this great labor and expense incurred by General Washington, in making a subscription, in behalf of the State, to this work, subscribed also one hundred and fifty shares of stock for the use of George Washington. This he in very respectful but delicate manner declined to accept, deeming it incompatible with the rule he had prescribed to himself in regard to his public services, but directed the proceeds to be applied to charitable purposes.

But what is most wonderful, in one of his letters to Mr. Madison, then a member of the Virginia Legislature, he actually predicted the difficulties which have since occurred in the Pennsylvania Legislature, but said their opposition to opening this communication would "put them in the wrong," and that the people of the West, "by their reiterated application would most assuredly effect it." We hope the Legislature this winter will withdraw their opposition and restore the charter, and thereby verify the last clause of this remarkable prediction.

But we will detain our readers no longer from the interesting documents referred to, which relate as will be seen to the "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal," which, following the route now occupied by the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road, are equally applicable to it:

(Extracts from Gen. Mason's letter.)

GEORGETOWN, 11th May, 1826.

HON. A. STEWART—Dear Sir—I have received your esteemed favor of the 8th inst., and need not say, that I will always be ready to contribute anything within my reach or power to one of the most sublime schemes ever conceived in any country, that of the Union and Chesapeake and Ohio canal. I pray you, sir, to be assured that it will at all times give me great pleasure to comply with any request of yours.

I have a large bundle of papers collected by General Washington, relative to this work, of himself, a year or two before his death, in relation to the object of which we are now in pursuit; some of them, unfortunately, I intrusted to gentlemen who have never returned them after examining for the collection, I perceive none that would be useful to our purpose, but the nine papers I now send you; they all bear the stamp of authenticity from his own hand, either being of his own authorship, or written at his dictation from his pen. They embrace a period, as you will perceive, from 1754 to 1785, and will evince, throughout, with what interest and accuracy he looked at this object.

The communications with Dinwiddie (winter 1784-5), have relation to a conference held at that time at Annapolis, between the States of Virginia and Maryland, regarding the opening of the Potomac river, and the navigation from the headwaters to those of the Ohio, to which General Washington, General Gates, and Colonel Blackburn were deputed on the part of Virginia, but the latter gentleman did not attend on account of indisposition.

I commit to you, my dear sir, on this occasion the same trust that was placed in me by the great author and compiler of these papers. I make such of their contents as I think will seem best for the cause in which they were prepared. Could he look down on us from the mansions above, he could but approve of the exertions now making to carry into execution the vast designs and plans contained in his letters, anxiety for the development of the resources of our country.

I annex a list of the papers sent; be pleased to return them to me with the whole, in the order in which they are, for they are precious relics. Should they be wanted at a future session they will always be ready in my hand.

I am with great regard and respect, dear sir, yours,

(Extract from Mr. Stewart's Report (No 228 19th Congress) from the Committee on Roads and Canals.

The Committee have obtained possession of a variety of letters, reports, maps and papers in the handwriting of Washington, in the handwriting of General Washington, extracts of which are annexed to this report. From these papers it appears that the importance of improving the navigation of the Potomac river, which affords the nearest and most practicable connection with the Western waters, attracted the attention of the Colonial Government of Virginia whilst yet a province of Great Britain. Among the manuscripts referred to the Committee find a report, in the handwriting of General Washington, dated in 1754, stating all the difficulties and obstructions to be overcome in rendering the Potomac navigable, and he actually succeeded, says his biographer, Marshall, in getting as far up as the Colonial Government *"to open the Potomac so as to make it navigable from tide water to Wills's Creek,"* and the business was in a train which promised success, when the Revolutionary war diverted the attention of its patrons and *of all Americans from internal improvements* to the great object of liberty and independence. As that war approached its termination, subjects which, for a time, yielded to the first intensions to . consideration, reclaimed that place to which their real magnitude entitled them, and the internal navigation again attracted the attention of the wise and thinking part of society. Washington now contemplate America as his country and to consider with solicitude the interests of the whole. Washington now took an enlarged view of the advantages to be derived from the opening communication between the eastern and western waters, and for this as well as for other purposes, after peace had been proclaimed, he traversed the western parts of New England and New York." And, in a letter to the Marquis of Chastelleaux, he says: "I have lately made a tour through the lakes George and Champlain, as far as Crown Point; then, retracing my steps, proceeded up the Mowhawk river to Fort Schuyler; crossed over the Wood creek which empties into Lake Oneida and affords the water communication with Ontario. I then traversed the country to the head of the Susquehanna, descended that river to the tide, and viewed the Lake Otswego and the portage between that lake and the Mowhawk river at Canajoharie. Prompted by these actual observations, I conceived a plan for a more contemplative and extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United States, and could not but be struck with the immense diffusion and importance of it; and with the goodness of the Providence which has dealt His favors to us with so profuse a hand. Would to God we may have wisdom enough to improve them! I shall not rest contented until I shall have explored the western country, and traversed these lines (or a great part of them) which have given bounds to a new Empire."

In the fall of the same year (1784) it appears that General Washington being so deeply engaged in the business of opening the navigation of the Eastern and Western waters, and devoting all his time and attention to it, actually explored the route of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, (now Connellsville road) as far as Pittsburgh. When he returned he made out a detailed and accurate report of the distances, the advantages and disadvantages of the several routes examined by him, and on comparing them he expressed unequivocally that the Potomac and Youghiogheny afforded the nearest and most practicable route for the accomplishment of his favorite plan of approximating the Eastern and Western waters.

He gives the following distances from Detroit to the several Atlantic seaports, viz:

To Alexandria or Washington City.....	607 miles.
" Richmond.....	750 "
" Philadelphia.....	540 miles.
" Albany.....	360 miles.
" New York.....	420 "

And what is a most remarkable fact, he at that early day predicted the accomplishment of the New York Canal, and that the trade of the West would soon be sufficient to supply with business, not only the Potomac and Ohio, and New York canals, but one through the Susquehannah, to Lake Erie, which he thought also would be found practicable. But as we conceive still more remarkable, and one which shows in a most striking point of view the character of this great and extraordinary man is, that among his manuscript papers, indorsed in his own handwriting, the Committee have found a map exhibiting the whole route of the *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal*, indicating the *practicable point of connection*, which seems to be precisely the same recommended by the United States Board of Engineers, in their report made to Congress the last session. This map also exhibits the route of a road or portage to connect the Eastern and Western waters, commencing at Cumberland and terminating at the Youghiogheny. Having made these surveys and reports, General Washington succeeded in getting a company incorporated by the concurrent act of Virginia and Maryland to improve this navigation, of which company he consented, at the pressing solicitation of Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison and other distinguished individuals who co-operated with them, to accept the Presidency.

In his letters to the Governors of Virginia and Maryland, to the members of Congress, and others, he labored incessantly to impress upon them the immense importance of opening a cheap and easy communication with the western country, by means of internal improvement. "He suggested," says Marshall, "the appointment of Commissioners of integrity and abilities, exempt from the suspicion of prejudice, whose duty it should be, after an accurate examination of the Potomac, to search out the nearest and best portage between it and the streams capable of improvement, which run into the Ohio. These streams were to be accurately surveyed, the impediments to their navigation ascertained, and their relative advantages examined. The navigable waters west of the Ohio, towards the great Lakes were also to be traced to their sources, and those which empty into the lakes to be followed to their mouths." "These things being done and an accurate map of the whole presented to the Assemblies, he was persuaded reason would dictate what was right and proper." "For the execution of the latter part of his plan *he had also much reliance on Congress*, and in addition to the general advantages to be known from the measure, he labored in his letters to the members of that body, to establish the opinion, that the survey he recommended would add to the certainty in valuing the value of the land offered for sale." "Nature," he said "had made such an ample display of her bounties in these regions, that the more the country was explored the more it would rise in estimation."

The assistance of Congress was deemed indispensable to the improvement of the Potomac, he was equally earnest in his endeavors to impress a conviction of its superior advantages on influential individuals of that body. In a letter to Jay, dated 1785, he says: "Nothing *which would unquestionably be adopted* by NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA FOR ACQUIRING THE MONOPOLY OF THE WESTERN COMMERCE, *and its effectative ruin*, should be long delayed. Influence it from the channel it had once taken." "I am not," he added, *"for discouraging the exertions of any State to draw the commerce of the Western country to its sea ports.* The more communications we open to it the closer we bind this rising world, (for indeed it may be so called), *to our interests and the greater strength shall be acquired by it. Those to whom nature affords the best communications, will*, IF THEY ARE WISE, *enjoy the greatest share of the trade. All I would be understood to mean, therefore*, is THAT THE RIGHTS OF PROVIDENCE SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED."

"But the light in which this subject could be viewed with the most interest, and which gives to it most *importance, was its political influence on the Union. Nor need I press the necessity of applying the cement of interests, to bind all parts of the Union together, by indissoluble bands, and thereby binding that part of it which lies immediately West of us to the Middle States."*

Thus it clearly appears that General Washington, in 1784, entertained no doubt of the power of the National Government to engage in a general system of internal improvements, even before the adoption of the present constitution, when its powers, all admit, were much more limited than they are at present, and for the extension and enlargement of which the present constitution was formed and adopted by the States.

Delighting to dwell on these patriotic, clear-sighted and prophetic views of the Father of his Country, on the subject of internal improvement, and believing that this gratification will be common to all, when the public mind upon the subject is attracting so much of the public attention, the committee will venture to present some additional views and arguments urged by Washington, in favor of the route of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (now the Connellsville Road).

In a letter addressed *to a Member of Congress*, when speaking of the importance of this subject and the danger of a separation of the Eastern and Western States unless measure were adopted to prevent it, by facilitating intercourse between them, which he pronounced to be "the best, indeed the only cement to bind them together," he adds, "this is a matter, which, though it does not come before *Congress wholly*, is in my opinion of great political importance, and ought to be attended to in time."

And, in speaking of the danger of severation, he says, "it may be asked how are we to prevent this? Happily for us the way is plain. Our infant habits do not lead us to remote political advantages, point to it; while a combination of circumstances renders the present time more favorable than any other, to accomplish it. Attend to the inland navigation of the Eastern waters; communicate them as near as possible, with those that run West; open these to the Ohio; open also such as extend from the Ohio towards lake Erie, and we shall not only draw the productions of the adjacent settlers but the peltry and fur trade of the lakes, also binding these people to us by a chain which never can be broken."

His letter to the Governor was communicated to the Assembly of Virginia, and the internal improvements it recommended were zealously advocated by the wisest and most influential members of that body. While the subject remained undecided, General Washington was accompanied by the Marquis Lafayette, who had crossed the Atlantic and had devoted a part of his time to the delights of an enthusiastic friendship, paid a visit to the capitals of the States. Never was reception more cordial or more demonstrative of respect than was given to these beloved personages. But amidst the display of addresses and entertainments which were produced by the great occasion, the objects of promoting the *internal improvements* then in contemplation was not forgotten, and the ardor of the moment was seized by him to conquer those objections to the plan which yet impeded the business for a year longer, and to avail himself of the favorable time to turn future advantage to compensate for the present expense."

In another letter, addressed to a prominent member of Congress, on the subject of opening the Potomac, he thus pathetically urges the importance of the measure:

"For my own part I wish sincerely every door to that country (the West) may be set wide open, and the commercial intercourse with it rendered as free and easy as possible.

"This, in my opinion, is the *best* if not the *only element*, that can bind these people to us for any length of time, and we shall be deficient in foresight and wisdom if we neglect the means of connecting it. Our ancestors, from the Potomac with this measure that nothing short of that ill-timed and misapplied *parsimony* and *contracted way* of thinking, which intermingles so much in our public council, can counteract it."

If the policy which opposes this measure was then justly pronounced by Washington, *useless, illiberal, contracted and illiberal*, what would he say of it now? Since then a new world, as if by magic, has sprung up in the West; the wilderness has yielded to the hand of industry; ships have taken the place of the Indian canoe, and splendid cities and towns and cultivated fields have risen and spread themselves over the ruins of savage huts.

Then the means of the country were limited; the Union was in debt and exhausted by the revolutionary conflict which had just terminated. If the policy which opposed this measure was justly "considered contracted and illiberal," what must be said of it now, when the means and resources of the country are ample, and when the inducements to the enterprise contemplate America as his country and to consider with solicitude the interests of the whole, Washington now took an enlarged view of the advantages to be derived from the opening communication between the eastern and western waters, and for this as well as for other purposes, after peace had been proclaimed, he traversed the western parts of New England and New York." And, in a letter to the Marquis of Chastelleaux, he says: "I have lately made a tour through the lakes George and Champlain, as far as Crown Point; then, retracing my steps, proceeded up the Mowhawk river to Fort Schuyler; crossed over the Wood creek which empties into Lake Oneida and affords the water communication with Ontario. I then traversed the country to the head of the Susquehanna, descended that river to the tide, and viewed the Lake Otswego and the portage between that lake and the Mowhawk river at Canajoharie. Prompted by these actual observations, I conceived a plan for a more contemplative and extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United States, and could not but be struck with the immense diffusion and importance of it; and with the goodness of the Providence which has dealt His favors to us with so profuse a hand. Would to God we may have wisdom enough to improve them! I shall not rest contented until I shall have explored the western country, and traversed these lines (or a great part of them) which have given bounds to a new Empire."

In the fall of the same year (1784) it appears that General Washington being so deeply engaged in the business of opening the navigation of the Eastern and Western waters, as the western settlers are not in circumstances to effect it themselves.

"With very great esteem and regard, I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

"GEORGE WASHIGTON.

"To Joseph Jones and James Madison, Esqrs."

In another letter to James Madison, dated Annapolis, 28th December, he 1784, says:

"The route by the Youghiogheny (through Pennsylvania) is particularly important, for the fur and peltry of the lakes, because it is the most direct route by which they can be transported, whilst it is also exceedingly convenient to the people inhabiting the Ohio and Allegheny above Fort Pitt, the lower part of the Monongahela, and all the Youghiogheny.

"It is now near twelve at night, and I am writing with an aching head, having been constantly employed on this business since the 22d with but very assistance from my colleagues, General Gates being sick and Colonel Blackburn not attending; but for this I would say more. I am, &c.,

G. WASHINGTON.

"James Madison, Esq."

The miners at the Union Coal Company's works, near Willchaire, refuse to submit to a reduction of wages, and are on a strike.

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

Report of State Superintendent Wickersham.

The report of Professor Wickersham, State Superintendent of Common Schools, for the year ending June 3, 1867, or seven months ago, is at length made public, and is a lengthy document. From it we make the following extracts:

STATEMENT.

Showing the Condition of the System for the School Year 1867, excluding Philadelphia.

Whole number of Districts.....	1,881
Whole number of Schools.....	13,060
Whole number of pupils in attendance.....	660,163
Average attendance of pupils.....	414,587
Per centage of attendance upon the whole number.....	628
Average length of school term.....	5 months 6 days.
Average cost of tuition per month for each pupil.....	85 cts.
Whole number of male teachers.....	6,610
Whole number of female teachers.....	8,309
Average salaries of male teachers per month.....	$35 87
Average salaries of female teachers per month.....	27 31
Total cost of tuition.....	2,482,512 93
Total cost of fuel and contingencies.....	501,677 23
Total cost of purchasing, building, renting and repairing houses.....	980,152 59
Total expenditures of the system for tuition, fuel and houses.....	4,964,742 84
Total State appropriation.....	1,000,000
Total State appropriation for common school purposes, excluding county superintendents' salaries.....	288,818 98
Average number of mills on a dollar school tax.....	7.25
Average number of mills on a dollar of all taxes.....	5.04
Total cost of system, being the whole amount of tax levied and State appropriation.....	3,964,285 23

RECEIPTS OF DISTRICTS.

Amount of tax levied in districts.....	$3,616,285 23
Amount received from collectors, unsettled.....	1,489,227 31
Balance not received into the district treasuries.....	127,047 92
Amount received from collectors, as above.....	$1,489,227 31
Sale appropriation.....	276,803 98
Total collections.....	$3,785,031 29

PAYMENTS OF DISTRICTS.

For instruction in one thousand eight hundred and forty-one districts.....	$2,160,512 93
For fuel and contingencies.....	501,057 21
For school houses, rents, grounds and repairs.....	985,152 85
Total.....	$3,646,742 99

BALANCE ON HAND AND DEBTS.

Balance on hand.....	$ 187,288 12
Debt of districts.....	631,440 90

In connection with this statement, I desire to call attention to the following points:

1. *Irregular attendance.*—The whole number of pupils in attendance during the year, was six hundred and sixty thousand one hundred and sixty-three (660,163), while the average attendance was only four hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred and thirty-seven (414,587,) thus showing, that school accommodations and teachers were provided for two hundred and forty-five thousand six hundred and twenty-six (245,626) pupils more than attended regularly. The average attendance on the whole number is only a little more than sixty per cent. This irregularity in attending schools, involves a large and unnecessary expenditure of an immense sum of money, and this is scarcely the worst of its effects, for it everywhere deranges the school and cripples the energies of the teacher. I submit the matter for the purpose of suggesting a remedy, but not for the purpose of starting a general inquiry into its cause and cure.

2. *Why Children Do Not Attend School.*—From facts that have come to the knowledge of the School Department, it is believed, that quite a large number of children, of proper age, in all parts of the State, never attend school. Some are in the mines, others in the more rural districts, and every village, and thousands, it is feared, could be hunted up in our large towns and cities. Something should be done to bring these children into the public schools, and, as a preliminary step, it is suggested that a provision be made by law to take the census once every three or five years of all the children in the State between the ages of six and twenty-one.

3. *Short School Terms.*—The average length of time during which the Schools of the State are kept open is five months and sixteen and three-fourths days, or, in round numbers, a little over the school term is only four months. Such short terms do injustice to the children of the State, and render it entirely impossible to secure good results in education.

The increase in the number of schools, 228; in the length of the school term, 1¾ days; in the average cost of tuition, per month, for each pupil, 4 cents; in the number of teachers, 268; in the salaries of male teachers, per month, $1 30; in the salaries of female teachers, per month, $1 30; in the total cost of tuition, $270, 107 23; in the amount expended for building purposes, $80,000; and even in the sums expended for the support of the system, $802,482 86, is all that could be expected. The increased amount of money raised by taxation and by appropriation from the State Treasury, and State taxes, and the bounty taxes, which still weigh down hundreds of districts, is really a matter of wonder, and indicates no ordinary confidence in the system of schools, which is rapidly becoming more popular with the people. The reduction of the number of mills on a dollar of State tax, from seven and one-quarter mills in 1866, to five and one-quarter mills in 1867, is also a most gratifying fact

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1868.

THE POPE'S ALLOCUTION.

This document, printed in our paper of to-day, has probably by this time been read, or will be read, by all who take interest in the events of their time, and by many who seldom concern themselves with the utterances of Kings or Kaisers. The pious Catholic has read the Holy Father's words as being of more than human import and significance; the pious Protestant has read them as being hardly human in the gratitude they express for victory, and in the exultation they express in remembrance of slaughtered enemies. Perhaps neither of these sentiments is precisely the feeling with which the cool student of history will regard the document and its occasion. He will probably recall the long centuries through which the papacy has existed and the terrible trials through which it has passed. Originating "in the twilight of fable," it has seen many kingdoms, republics and empires rise, flourish, decay and fall. Many times in the course of its long duration it has seemed to its enemies, and to most of its friends, to be on the very verge of destruction. It has, however, always come out of its perils and troubles with almost unimpaired vigor; and sometimes with fresh power of conquest, apparently derived from its afflictions.

It is very natural that Protestants who regard Popery as an erroneous religious system, and philanthropists who regard the Papacy as a monstrous system of human oppression, should have looked eagerly for signs of the decay and downfall of the Roman See. For the last few years many of both those classes have watched the condition of things in Italy with ever brightening hopes. The Holy Father did surely appear to be in great straits. This was manifest, now from his scolding, then from his horrid imprecations upon his enemies, and again from his quite feminine shrieks to his friends for help. Then, authenticated facts, such as the GARIBALDIAN *furore*, and the anti-Church measures of the Italian Government, were well adopted to encourage hope and even belief in many minds, adverse to the continued domination of the old gentleman of the Seven Hills. Travelers too of various sects and of none, agreed in reporting things about the Italian people, which seemed to disclose the giving way of their hold on the Pope. It cannot be denied that some of these travelers were not well qualified to see into the minds of the Italians. We remember to have read with much sympathy and then with some amusement in the published journal of one of these tourists, a statement which was intended to show the debased idolatry of the people in a certain village in the central part of the Peninsula, but which was quite as well suited to illustrate the ignorance of the writer. In a certain chapel, much frequented by worshippers, our traveler found that a picture—of which the lineaments had been almost obliterated by time, was the chief object of adoration. His guide-book told him that the chapel was dedicated to the infant JESUS. "What were my amazement and horror," exclaims the tourist, "on examining the canvas to find the words *S. Bambino* written quite distinctly at the base! These poor creatures were actually adoring the picture of some man of the name of BAMBINO, while they supposed they were rendering worship to the Saviour!" Our readers need not be told that *Santo Bambino* is good Italian for Holy Child. Many of these tourists again had a happy faculty of finding what they went to find, and of seeing what they wished to see. We suppose that the whole female population of Italy, with insignificant exceptions, have never ceased to regard the Pope with the feelings inspired in them by the teachings and practices which moulded their childhood. Receiving and comprehending this fact, we shall not hesitate to set down a great portion of the male population as more or less under the influence of the same feelings, or at least as susceptible of having their actions controlled by them. The same may be said of the female population of France, and of Catholic Germany, and of the illiterate male population of the same countries. The Pope's temporal power has given rise to many questions, and has been discussed and battled for and against in many countries and at wide intervals of time. Assailed with hot argument and ferocity it has been defended with argument and with resolute persistence so many times that PIO NONO, no doubt, has felt that in his obstinate maintenance of the transmitted prerogatives of his crown, he has been looked down upon from Heaven with sympathy and approval by a great multitude of saints and martyrs who died, or suffered for the same cause. The greatest statesmen of Catholic countries, some of them Protestants, seem to be united in thinking that the Pope, for the sake of his independence and power of impartiality, ought to be a temporal sovereign. In his allocution the Pope expresses only the truth when he refers to the eloquent speeches made in his favor, and to the applause with which these speeches were heard, and to the enthusiasm with which the nobly born and the young have rushed to shed their blood for the good cause. We believe that the Papacy has again passed triumphantly through another of those fearful ordeals which have so often occurred in its history, and that, in all probability, its efforts will turn out to be fresh energy and a new lease of existence. We do not, however, profess to be prophets.

JOHNSON VS. MEADE.

The removal of General POPE and the appointment in his place of General MEADE were designed for a trump card, that would go far in assisting him to win the game which he fancies himself playing with the Representatives of the people in Congress assembled. General POPE was too radical, decidedly; and General MEADE was a "Conservative" who could be relied on to work the machine on the reverse principle. But Mr. JOHNSON appears not to have understood his man; for, in the first week of his administration, General MEADE has found himself in antagonism with the President for removing Governor JENKINS, which General POPE declined to do, on the ground that it was too extreme a measure. Instead of sending to Congress a message—as he did in the case of Gen. HANCOCK—brevetting him the Second WASHINGTON, and nominating him for the Presidency, Mr. JOHNSON has felt compelled to interpose and suspend the order of Gen. MEADE suspending Governor JENKINS. Even the moderately lively imagination will be able to form a tolerably adequate conception of the probable state of the President's mind over this miscarriage. And the "Conservatives" of Georgia,—they by this time no doubt have a pretty distinct idea of the lesson taught in the fable, wherein a confiding frog, dissatisfied with the ways of King LOG, procured a change for King STORK, and speedily met the shocking fate of being entirely eaten up by him! Of course Mr. JOHNSON, to be consistent, can do nothing but remove Gen. MEADE. This he must do or give up beaten. It seems to us, too, that it is pertinent to inquire of the New York *Tribune* what he thinks now about Gen. GRANT being the Registrar of ANDREW JOHNSON'S orders, and whether its furious article abusive of Gen. GRANT, on the removal of Gen. POPE, was not, in view of the way things are turning out, slightly premature?

NO STEP BACKWARD

The Republicans in Congress fully realize the necessity for firm and speedy action in order to save to the country the fruits of the war. To all intents and purposes the war is still going on, for in whatever light the question of reconstruction is viewed, the same ideas for which the rebel armies contended are at stake in the contest between Congress and the President, urged by the Democratic party—the same party which, in every way but by going into their armies, aided the rebels in their efforts to overthrow the Government. In such a contest there must be not one step backward. The country needs and demands repose; but repose there cannot be until all the States are restored to their proper places and represented in Congress. This is just what the Republicans are striving to bring about in the shortest time possible. It is the President and his Democratic advisers who place obstructions in the way, and have determined that there shall be neither reconstruction nor restoration except on a basis which will practically restore the Slave code, and the late rebel chiefs to equal participation in the affairs of the Government. The Republicans representing the people must go forward as they have heretofore done—as our arms went forward—until the contest shall end in complete victory. They are in the right. Their cause is the cause of Freedom and Progress. Let them be overborne now, and every rebel and rebel sympathiser in the land will consider every battle lost in the war retrieved and the Lost Cause won. Whatever in sound discretion becomes essential to prevent such a catastrophe, and the triumph of the good cause, which is as much at stake now as it was when GRANT was encircling Richmond, let the Republicans in Congress do, and that speedily.

STATE TREASURER.

In agreeing upon General IRWIN for State Treasurer—which was equivalent to an election—the Republicans in the Legislature made sure of an officer worthy to succeed Treasurer KEMBLE, and to say this is to bestow the highest praise on the power that confers and the gentleman who receives the appointment. Nor is the unanimity attending the selection the least gratifying feature of the proceeding. The canvass, which was somewhat animated and protracted, left no sting. More especially is this the case in the quarter where, if anywhere, we would be most likely to find it, for it was Mr. CONNELL, General IRWIN'S principal opponent, who moved to make the caucus vote unanimous—a fact gratifying in itself and not likely to be forgotten.

That General IRWIN will make a capable and faithful officer, no one who knows him will entertain the shadow of a doubt, and Western Pennsylvania will esteem at its full value the compliment conveyed in his selection. We congratulate the Republicans in the Legislature on the harmony which prevails among them, and on their attention to public concerns. The session opens auspiciously; and we will not permit ourselves to doubt that the high expectations of the people will be fully satisfied.

GEN. GARFIELD, in a recent letter not designed for publication, but which, nevertheless, was published, wrote as follows:

"The Presidential outlook is anything but pleasing. The current for Grant seems irresistible, and if he act checked or controlled, *it will result in a smash-up without precedent in politics. Indeed, some of our friends are so mad as to advocate precisely that course.*

It has been some weeks since this was written, and it may be that General GARFIELD has by this time invented a process whereby public sentiment in regard to GRANT can be "checked or controlled." Without intending it, no doubt, General GARFIELD pays to GRANT the highest tribute he could utter, when he says that "the current" for him "is irresistible." No one will pretend that GRANT has schemed for this "irresistible" popularity. On the contrary, it must be admitted on all hands that it is the result of faithfulness and capacity in the performance of every duty; freedom from "entangling alliances" of every kind, and the manifestation of those qualities which ever win the confidence of the American people. Greater calamities have befallen the country than any that would likely result from nominating General GRANT "without a platform or a pledge." The Republican party, whose candidate he will be—rather already is, whether with or without "platform or pledge," have accepted him precisely for the reason he is the man he is—and for this very reason too, will he be elected President.

MR. STANTON has re-entered on his duties as Secretary of WAR, Gen. GRANT retiring to the Headquarters of the Army. There was neither fess nor difficulty in the proceeding. Mr. STANTON acting as though he had just returned from a protracted absence, and General GRANT leaving as though he had occupied his place during his absence. About whether Mr. STANTON will resign, there appears to be some question. His own disposition is known to be to resign, and at once. This course would prevent all further unpleasantness and allay fears which, if allowed to extend, might work mischief. The law has had its course. Mr. STANTON has been vindicated, and it remains with the President to determine whether there shall be further embroilment.

JUDGE SHARKEY, of Mississippi, is given for authority for the assertion that the Constitution which the Convention in that State is engaged in framing "will certainly be defeated by the people." But should it not be defeated, says the same authority, *"the white citizens will unite for the purpose of sending negro Senators and Representatives to Congress from that State."* This is a pleasant scheme to be engaged in, and fully entitles the Southern Democracy, who style themselves "Conservatives," to be considered entirely consistent in their professions of abhorrence for "negro domination."

The Royal Palace of Spain.

It is far more splendid than the Tuileries, or any palace in France, England, Germany or Italy. It cost more than three millions of dollars a hundred years ago, and that was a much greater sum of money then than now. It has been enlarged and embellished from year to year ever since. When we drove up to the grand court, it was so formidable filled with cavalry that we thought the predicted insurrection was imminent, and the army had been summond to the defense of the palace. Not at all. These mounted soldiers are only the regular guard that, day and night, stand sentries to protect the sacred person of her serene and Catholic majesty from the violent hands of her loving people. In this inner court, or square, the cavalry, in long line and fierce array, are ready for a fight with the revolutionists, if they are brave enough, or can succeed in getting hands in a tussle with the troops of government, trained and paid to defend the existing order of things. From the windows of the armory this martial parade was imposing, though there were but a few hundreds or mounted men. The officers were clad in polished steel back and breast-plates, which flash brightly in the sun. The uniform is brilliant and the riding splendid. Artillery companies with cannon mounted, drawn by horses, maneuver in the square, crossing and recrossing constantly, under the eye of the royal household. A long line of lounging people look on also: also one may ride and come all day, an impression is certainly insinuated by this military parade that the government is always ready to take care of itself.

The palace stands on the verge of a height that commands a wide and exciting view of the plains of Castile. The thought of what those plains have been in the last two thousand years, must be of more than modern interest to one who takes in the past with the present. What successive tides of conquest have there ebbed and flowed! To know that Charles V. and Napoleon and Wellington have followed one another on those identical fields to this summit, with their legions, is enough to invest them with grandeur. And here, in this armory, is the very sword that Gonsalo of Cordova wore, and the sword with which Ferdinand, the saint and hero, smote the Moors; and the sword of Charles V., and the complete suit of armor which the great emperor often wore, and in which he was painted by Titian; and the suit of armor worn by Boabdil, the last Moorish king who sat on the throne of this Alhambra, and who left it behind, doubtless, when he delivered his sword into the hands of Ferdinand and Isabella, at the foot of the hill on which I am writing. We had thought revolvers a modern invention, but here are elegant pistols on the same principle, used in the 17th century, and now as good as new. A crown, a sword, a helmet, or some other weapon, illustrates the life of all the heroes of Spanish history; and the number of warlike memorials here displayed is about three thousand. How men managed to fight while clad from head to foot in these suits of steel armor is to me, a non-combatant, one of the mysteries of the art of war. We read of tournaments, and, more to be wondered at, of battle-fields, where all the knights are clothed from head to foot in the identical garments that are now before us, or in others made after the same pattern: and how, with such a weight of steel, and so constrained to the simplest of action, they could manage to wield their swords and thrust their spears, I do not understand. They were not men of more physical power than our soldiers. Some of them were less than the present average size of men. But they were mighty men with the sword. The Toledo blade was quite equal to that of Damascus; and the helmet was often insufficient to save the brain, when the sword, in a strong hand came down, cleaving through steel and skull.—*Letter to N. Y. Observer.*

THE PAPACY.

The Latest Allocution.

The following is a translation of the Allocution which the Pope addressed to the Secret Consistory held on the 20th u timo:

"VENERABLE BRETHREN: Rich in mercy, God, who consoles us in all our tribulations, mingles joys with sorrows, venerable brethren, in order that, hoping always in Him, and not being intimidated by obstacles, we may walk with a step which is always firmer in the way of righteousness, and that, supporting without fear the cause of His holy Church, we may devote all our strength to the complete discharge of our apostolic ministry. Every one sees most clearly how many testimonies of His divine goodness the most merciful Lord deigns to lavish upon us in the midst of the most serious calamities with which the Church in these times of great iniquity is afflicted, and in the midst of the grave perils with which this Apostolic See is tried and surrounded in all directions. While Satan, his satellites, and his children do not cease to let loose their fury in the most horrible manner against our Divine religion; against us, and against the chair of St. Peter, opposing the war tormenting the populations of most unhappy Italy, so long devoted to us, the God of mercy and goodness unveils Himself in an open and wonderful way to His Church; He hastens to its aid, and grants to it the support of His all-powerful might.

"And hence it is, venerable brethren, that all the prelates of the Catholic world, closely united to us by the bonds of faith and charity, unanimous in supporting the Holy See, and moved by one sole thought, one common sentiment, constantly defend, some by the living voice, others with the pen, the cause of Catholicity, ourselves and the Holy See. Even the nobility in the great public assemblies of Europe raise their voice for the protection of the Catholic Church and of this Holy See, on behalf of our temporal power, and of the sovereignty of that See. Above all, the cause of our temporal power has, in the senate of Paris and in the Corps Legislatif, just been splendidly and magnificently defended, almost with unanimous votes and with the applause and to the joy of all good men.

"The Catholic populations, deeply execrating the abominable perfidy of our enemies, have hastened and rejoiced to testify their filial affection for us by brilliant demonstrations, to proclaim their piety and their veneration for the Holy See, and to assuage its sorrows by frequent contributions; and the faithful of both sexes, even the poor, have brought us the aid of their money. And one can point, among ecclesiastics as among laymen, to the most illustrious writers who in their works, and the most eloquent orators who in their speeches in the midst of great political assemblies, glory in defending and supporting the venerable and indisputable principles of righteousness, of truth, and of the Holy See; and they have defended them with ardor and talent, victoriously refuting all the falsehoods of the adversary.

"And how many men of the noblest birth, in almost all countries, full of fervor for the cause of religion, leaving their relations, their wives and their children, have hastened to the defense of our city, and, disregarding all fatigues and all perils, have not hesitated to enroll themselves in our army and to expose their lives for the Church, for our sovereign, and the sovereignty of our Holy See! Catholic parents themselves, inflamed with the spirit of their religion, have sent their sons, even an only son, for the defense of the Holy See, and imitating the illustrious example of the mother of the Macrobees, the y have gloried and rejoiced at seeing them shed their blood for such a cause. Moreover, the people subject to our civil authority, although exposed to the most criminal snares from the most perverse men, to menaces and evils of every kind, have nevertheless remained firm and stable in their duty toward us and the Holy See. Among them the people of Rome, who are especially dear to us on account all our praise, have greatly distinguished themselves; for nearly all the citizens of every grade, and of every condition in our Holy city, have vied in proving to us their love and their submission towards us, and their obedience to the civil authority of ourselves and our Holy See, and have burned with a desire to assist us. You know, also venerable brethren, how our soldiers, worthy, beyond all praise, and for all praise, have distinguished themselves by their fidelity; with what admirable bravery they have fought against the bands of those criminal men, and with what glory they have fallen on the field of battle in the cause of the Church.

"Moreover, you are not ignorant, venerable brethren, how great has been the fidelity of our children, how worthy of all praise, and with what admirable valor they have fought against a band of most wicked men, and with what glory they have died in combating for the Church. And you well know that the most serene and most powerful Emperor of the French nation, considering our most serious perils, sent his valiant troops, who, with their most excellent leaders, were glad to aid, with all joy and zeal, our army, and to share the combats of Mentana and Monte Rotondo, to fight bravely by their side and to face death to the glory of their high fame. Nor are you ignorant that, especially in the Gospel, every day more splendid, receives, with the help of God and our most holy religion, greater increase every day, and that those who stand in the darkness and in the shadow of death, receive light in the bosom of holy Mother Church, when the darkness of their minds is dispersed; and that everywhere various pious institutions, most useful to all classes, and to the cause of Christian and civil society, are every day on the increase. All these things, briefly referred to by us, together with the manifold snares of wicked men, discovered and defeated in a wonderful manner, evidently show how the omnipotent and merciful Lord, in whose hands are the hearts of men, most miraculously defends and protects his Church, confirms most clearly the promise that the gates of hell do not prevail against her, and that he is with us forever until the consummation of all time. Wherefore, venerable brethren, let us always give our deepest and most grateful thanks to the most clement Father of mercies for so many favors received, and, placing in him alone all our hope and confidence, let us not cease to beseech Him with most fervent prayers that, through the merits of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, He may continue to save His Church from all calamities, and free us from His and our enemies, and to confound and make vain their devices and deeds directed against us; let us beseech Him likewise that He may deign to bring back to a saving penitence, and to a true sense of justice, those enemies, and likewise those who, fighting against us, were made our prisoners, and who treated most charitably by us, persist in their obstinacy. And in order that God may the more readily hear our prayers, let us make use of, first of all, the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our most loving mother and the most powerful help of Christians, who obtains what she lacks, and cannot be frustrated; next of the most holy St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and of the Apostle Paul, and all the saints who reign with Christ in heaven. Before concluding, however, we cannot refrain from rendering deserved and most ample praise, and to express the most grateful sentiments of our mind to all and each of those who, by voice or writing, or by aid in any respect, have endeavored, even to the peril of their lives, to defend, to the great glory of their names, our cause, the cause of the Holy See, and of the Church. And let us not fail in all our prayers and orisons to humbly and fervently beseech God, from whom proceeds every good and perfect gift, that He may deign to help upon those sons of the Church who are most dear to us, and its most valorous defenders, the richest gifts of the Divine grace and all heavenly blessings."

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 9, 1868.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock. The committee selected to try the contested election of Robinson, Republican, against Shugart, Democrat, from the Twenty-first District, is as follows: Messrs. Cowles, of McKean; Fisher, of Lancaster; Landon, of Bradford; Ridgeway, of Philadelphia; Taylor, of Beaver, Republicans, and Messrs. Jackson, of Sullivan, and Linderman, of Bucks, Democrats.

The Governor vetoed the following bills passed last year:

Commuting the death penalty in certain cases. Consideration postponed.

Supplement to Aughwick Mining and Exploring Company. Postponed.

Authorizing the Sheriff of Allegheny to tax costs in certain cases. Postponed on motion of Mr. Ercett.

Relating to auctions in Beaver county. Postponed on motion of Mr. Taylor.

Incorporating the Connellsville Savings Bank. Veto sustained.

Allowing the Court of Cameron county to alter the charter of Emporium. Sustained.

Regulating fees of Notaries Public in Allegheny. Veto sustained.

Incorporating York and Dillsburg Railroad. Veto sustained.

Extending to Mount Washington the act relative to vehicle license law and board walks. Veto sustained. Adjourned until Monday evening.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MORNING SESSION.—Two hours were fruitlessly spent in balloting for speaker. A negotiation was concluded between the Republicans last night, but this morning the majority refused to yield to the demands of the dissenters. After the 16th ballot, adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—This session adjourned at six o'clock, after the twenty-fifth ballot was taken without electing a Speaker.

On the twentieth ballot Mr. Ewing withdrew, requesting the dissenters to vote for Mr. Davis, but they voted for other gentlemen, who each in turn withdrew.

After the twenty-third ballot, Mr. Webb, of Bradford, offered a preamble, declaring Mr. Davis pledged for a free railroad law, and a resolution for his election.

The preamble was ruled out by the Chair.

Mr. Herr, of Dauphin, offered an amendment embodying the substance of the preamble in a resolution, which was ruled out by a majority of the House.

Various ingenious motions were made by the Davis men, but defeated.

The Clerk refused to receive vetoes from the Governor.

House meets to-morrow at eleven o'clock, as it cannot adjourn over till organized.

The following is from those members refusing to support Mr. Davis:

HARRISBURG, January 8.—Editors of the State Guard—Gentlemen: Our attention has been called to an article in the *State Guard* of this day, reflecting severely on the position and motives of those who feel it to be our duty to withhold our support from the Hon. Elisha Davis, as a candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives. Permit me to say that while we are not Organizers, but have at heart the success and welfare of the Republican party. We have voted and acted with that organization ever since it had an existence, and we intend to do so in the future, except when an attempt is made to inflict a great wrong upon the party. This we believe is now being done by some gentlemen who desire to see Mr. Davis elected Speaker, and who are and have been freely applying to us the epithets of disorganizers and malcontents. In the faithful discharge of our duty to an honest and incorruptible constituency, we have taken this stand, assured that when the time arrives for us to lay before the world our reasons at large for our action, it will meet with the approbation of every honest and true Republican in the State.

A. Armstrong, David L. Smith, John T. Richards, Jacob D. Boyer, Jr., Boyd Lee Espy, Samuel McCamant, H. S. Wharton, members of the House of Representatives.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 10, 1868.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MORNING SESSION.—On assembling, the House immediately adjourned till two in the afternoon, on motion of Mr. Thorn, of Philadelphia.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—On the twenty-sixth ballot the dissenting Republicans voted for Mr. Davis, except Mr. Riddle, of Allegheny, who voted for Mr. Wilson. The result was: Davis, 50, Jones, 43; Wilson, 1. Hellman, Republican, of Lancaster, and McMillin, Democrat, of Montgomery; Holgate, Republican, of Philadelphia, and Roush, Democrat, of Union, and and Boyd, Democrat, of York, and Hickman, Republican, of Chester, all paired off.

The dissenting members filed their reasons for holding out. The first was because they wanted a man not identified with the offensive legislation of last year; second, one in favor of retrenchment and reform; third, one not connected with corporations; fourth, one in favor of a free railroad. Mr. Davis had now satisfied them.

Mr. Davis, on being sworn in as Speaker, spoke as follows:

Representatives of Pennsylvania:

If I consulted my own feelings on the present occasion, I would merely thank you. But after the ordeal through which you have passed, a just consideration for those friends and myself demand at my hands that I should say something in vindication of myself and those who so magnanimously supported me in the canvass. I shall not refer to anything that would mar the harmony of the great party of which I am an humble member, but will simply say I stand to-day before the representatives of the people and this vast assembly, and know that I must some day stand before a higher tribunal, heaven's great court of last resort, and should those attacks made upon my public acts and private character be arrayed against me at the throne of all-mighty justice, in the presence of the God that made me, I will pronounce them false.

I will now proceed to say to the members of the House what I intended to say upon the day they assembled to elect a speaker. I have changed the word, but have just left those remarks as they were printed last Monday evening. Every pledge that I have made shall be carried out. I have not many words to say, what I have to say to memory. It is very brief, and I ask your patience during its reading: For this very high compliment bestowed, and the confidence reposed in me, I tender my hearty thanks. Will endeavor to deserve both, by earnest effort, and to the extent of my ability discharge my duty with equal justice to all. Every energy of my nature shall be taxed to the task. I respectfully ask, that you will receive your hearty co-operation and support in this effort.

Our duties will be important and arduous. The eyes of four millions of people are upon us. Our actions will be closely watched and severely scrutinized. The people have entrusted us with their interests. Let us be sure to guard them faithfully. The political party I have the honor to represent is firmly and unquestionably pledged to certain measures of State policy, all of which I cordially approve. I hold that as a party obligation should be general instead of local or special. We have general mining, banking, manufacturing, and corporation laws. We should also have a general railroad law; a liberal, practical, comprehensive one, under whose operations capital would be invested to develop the immense resources of this great State. Let the Legislature be true to what seems to be the almost universal demand of the people of every section of the State, by passing the restrictions and the liberal system of internal commerce, yet always guarding the rights of individual citizens. Invite capital to come freely and develop our inexhaustible fields of iron, from, coal and other minerals, as well as the immense lumbering regions and our other sources of wealth and greatness. This can only be accomplished thoroughly by giving the right to open every locality of the State containing such sources of wealth to free and wholesome competition.

That I may be properly understood, I am in favor of and hope the House will speedily pass the much agitated and greatly needed free railroad law. Any efforts to that end shall receive my entire approbation and earliest co-operation.

Seven years ago I was selected by the House to preside. We then stood on the threshold of the most gigantic conflict of modern times. The House then pledged all the resources of the State to maintain the Constitution, sustain the Government and enforce the laws of the nation. How well those pledges were carried out and redeemed is now a part of our country's history. Pennsylvania sprang to arms at first to respond to the call of the President to defend the Capital. It was Pennsylvania soil where the rebellion received its most effective and stunning blow, and sent it staggering back from the glorious field of Gettysburg to a dishonored grave at Appomattox. The country's power was re-established and armed treason crushed, and if the traitors were not punished, or if treason was not made odious, it was not for want of power, but palpable and wanton disaffection in high places. But, thank God, the people's representatives in Congress are still masters of the situation. Let them continue to protect loyal men every where in their just rights, and hold traitors to a strict accountability. This, in my judgment, is the only safe way to reconstruct the union of those States. If men whose hands are red with the blood of our brothers are again permitted to take part in the administration of the laws, we will only have ourselves to blame if similar scenes of blood through which we have passed should be re-enacted.

I again affirm that I will employ all honorable means at my command to carry out what I firmly believe to be the wishes of the people of the Commonwealth, and endeavor so to conduct the deliberations of the House as to make the session harmonious and pleasant, as well as advantageous to the public. Again, gentlemen, for this very distinguished mark of your esteem and endorsement of my humble pretensions as a representative, from my soul, I thank you.

The Republican nominees for the other offices were then all elected.

On motion of Mr. Thorn, of Philadelphia, a new committee on *Legislative Record* was appointed, namely: Messrs. Thorn, Herr and Josephs, with power to contract for printing. This is a fight between the *Telegraph* and the *State Guard*. The committee is regarded favorable to the *State Guard*.

Adjourned till 8 o'clock Monday evening.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 13, 1868.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eight this evening.

Mr. Lowry asked to be excused from serving on the Railroad Committee. Granted.

Mr. Connell, of Philadelphia, presented a bill repealing all taxes on mortgages, except those issued by corporations. Mr. Searight, of Fayette, a bill restoring the act of 1866, granting pensions to soldiers of 1812; also, relative to evidence in actions of ejectment; also, relative to compensation of Commissioners of Fayette.

Mr. White, of Indiana, a resolution discharging all committees from consideration of bills five days after reference. Passed.

Mr McConaughy, a resolution instructing the Finance Committee to report a bill to provide for investing the surplus in the treasury and sinking fund to produce revenue for the State. Passed.

Mr. Shoemaker, a bill for a general registry law; also, establishing an additional State Lunatic Hospital in the Northern section of the State; also, authorizing the Secretary of the Commonwealth to record official bonds.

Mr. Lowry, a supplement allowing stockholders of Marine Hospital at Erie to hold votes in proportion to the stock; also, a resolution instructing the Finance Committee to inquire into the feasibility of the State purchasing the first mortgage bonds of the Erie canal.

Mr. Browne, of Lawrence, a bill giving Courts of Quarter Sessions jurisdiction over roads partly in and partly out of boroughs; also, for an additional Justice of the Peace in Mahoning township, Indiana county; also, incorporating the Trustees of the Allegheny Theological Seminary of the United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

The Speaker announced the Standing Committees as follows:

Federal Relations—Lowry, McConaughy, Browne of Lawrence, Walker and McCandless.

Finance—Connell, Worthington, Landon, Ercett and Jackson.

Judiciary General—Shoemaker, McConaughy, Wallace, White and Burnett.

Judiciary Local—Cowles, Linderman, Fisher, Davis and Stinson.

Accounts—Stinson, Coleman, Slagle, Shugart and Linderman.

Education and Appropriations—McConaughy, White, Wakefield, Cowles and Searight.

Pensions and Gratuities—Fisher, Lowry, Randall, Brown of Northampton, and McIntyre.

Corporations—Ridgway, Taylor, Brown of Mercer, Glatz, and Slagle.

Banks—Brown of Mercer, Connell, Lowry, Randall, and Brown of Northampton.

Canals and Inland Navigation—Taylor, Schumaker, Searight, Linderman and Stinson.

Railroads—Coleman, Lowry, Ridgeway, Randall and Ercett.

Election Districts—Stutzman, White, Jackson, Billingsley and McIntyre.

Retrenchment and Reform—Brown of Lawrence, Billingsley, Ercett, Davis and Beck.

Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures—Stutzman, Landon, Billingsley, Glatz, and Shugart.

Military Affairs—White, Taylor, Fisher, McCandless, and Hall.

Roads and Bridges—Billingsley, Landon, Taylor, Glatz, and Slagle.

Congress Lands—Jackson, Stutzman, Billingsley, McCandless and Slagle.

Vice and Immorality—Browne, of Lawrence, Worthington, Taylor, Burnett and Linderman.

Private Claims and Damages—Fisher, Stutzman, Billingsley, Beck and McIntyre.

Libraries—Worthington, Cowles and Wallace.

Public Printing—Ercett, McConaughy, Connell, McCandless and Searight.

Public Buildings—Coleman, Brown of Mercer, Schumaker, Lowry and Searight.

New Counties and County Seats—Brown, of Mercer, Shoemaker, Lowry and Searight.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at eight this evening. The Senate resolution adopting the joint rules of 1867 was adopted. The Governor's message was received, reading dispensed with, and a motion to print postponed.

Mr. Mann, of Potter, offered a resolution in respect to the memory of the late Chief Clerk, A. W. Benedict, which was passed. Messrs. Mann, of Potter; Wilson, of Allegheny; Jones, of Berks; Jenks, of Jefferson; Ewing, of Washington, and Deise, of Clinton, all paid glowing tributes to the memory of the late clerk.

Mr. Wilson, of Allegheny, presented a petition from the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, for a law allowing them to borrow money in Pennsylvania, also, from A. W. Foster, of Pittsburgh, for cumulative voting.

Mr. Ford, of Allegheny, a petition from Jacob Grubb, a soldier of 1812, for a pension; also from the surveyors of Allegheny for an increase of fees when engaged as witnesses.

Mr. Wilson, of Allegheny, presented a bill for the payment of the retiring officers of the House. Amended to include assistant clerks, one transcribing clerk, sergeant-at-arms, one assistant door keeper, one assistant messenger and postmaster. Passed.

Mr. Ford, of Allegheny, presented a bill for the repeal of what is known as the Tioga law.

Mr. Wilson, of Allegheny, a free railroad bill; also, relative to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad.

Mr. Deise, of Clinton, a bill repealing the act of 1867 compelling the admission of negroes into cars.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 14, 1868.

SENATE.

The *Legislative Record* resolution was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Ercett, of Allegheny, presented a supplement to the charter of the Monongahela Valley Railroad Company, increasing its capital stock, and changing the route; also, reducing the *per diem* of jury commissioners; also, a free railroad law; also, relative to Pittsburgh and Connellsville road; also, authorizing the administration of oaths to officers of primary meetings; also, incorporating the Savings Bank of Pittsburgh; also, giving courts power to establish election districts in Allegheny county; also, incorporating the Germania Fire Insurance Company.

Mr. Browne, of Lawrence, bill incorporating Columbia College at Kittanning; also, incorporating the Neshannock Railroad, Coal and Ore Company, intended to supply New Castle with coal.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Ford, of Allegheny, presented a bill for the relief of Jacob Grubb, an old soldier; also, increasing the fees of surveyors in Allegheny attending Court.

Mr. Wilson, of Allegheny, incorporating the Lawrenceville Gas Company; also, incorporating the Federal street and Pleasant Valley Passenger Railway Company, Allegheny city; also, incorporating the Saving and Building Association of Pittsburgh; also, authorizing the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company to loan money in Pennsylvania; also, granting a pension to John McAuley, of Allegheny.

Mr. Jackson, of Armstrong, bill vacating part of North street in Apollo.

Mr. Jones, of Berks, a bill repealing the liquor law of 1867.

Mr. Nicholson, of Beaver, establishing a ferry over the Ohio river at Vanport; also, authorizing an additional notary public at Smith Ferry.

Mr. Gallagher, of Westmoreland, a supplement to charter of Greensburg.

Mr. Clark, of Warren, a joint resolution against the acquisition of additional territory.

Mr. Phelan, of Greene, repealing the act of 1867 assessing National Bank stocks; also fixing the fees of Sheriff for transferring prisoners.

The State Treasurership.

The Republican caucus met at ten o'clock this morning. The first vote for State Treasurer stood: Irwin 53; Mason 9.

Mr. Connell moved to make the nomination unanimous, and paid a handsome tribute to General Irwin.

The Democrats nominated Wm. V. McGrath, of Philadelphia.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 15, 1868.

SENATE.

Mr. Lowry, from the Committee on Federal Relations reported joint resolutions indorsing Secretary Stanton and hailing his restoration with joy, as follows:

Resolved, That the loyal men of this Commonwealth hail with joy the restoration of Hon. Edwin M. Stanton to the office from which he has been illegally excluded, and that the thanks of the people of Pennsylvania are hereby tendered to the Senators who have by their action in this case, vindicated a meritorious officer and rebuked an apostate President.

Resolved, That it is the universal wish of the loyal men of Pennsylvania that Hon. Edwin M. Stanton shall retain the office he now holds; that he will risk his personal wishes for the public good, and that the country more than ever requiring his services, may again rest in security, with the unblinching Secretary at the head of military affairs.

Debated and passed to a third reading by a strict party vote.

Mr. Browne, of Lawrence, presented a bill reimbursing Wm. C. Harbeson for money advanced for bounties.

Mr. Worthington, of Chester, one authorizing the Governor to appoint three Commissioners to visit the Insane asylums, and report next year.

Mr. Searight, of Fayette, a bill fixing March 11th for final adjournment; also, incorporating the Mountain Railway Company from Falls City, in Fayette county, to Smithfield, in Somerset county; also, authorizing the Monongahela Valley Railway Company to build a branch from the Monongahela river to Uniontown.

Mr. Ercett presented a bill relative to the removal of bodies from the Methodist burial ground, Pittsburgh, and changing the commissioners for that purpose.

A bill paying the retiring officers thirty dollars for services and fifty dollars for mileage was passed.

Adjourned.

Joint Session.

In a convention of both Houses at twelve o'clock, W. W. Irwin received 73 votes for State Treasurer and Wm. V. McGrath 58. Gen. Irwin was duly elected. Messrs. Wallace, Democrat, of Clearfield, and McCullough, Democrat, of Clearfield, were absent.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The whole session was occupied in debating a resolution offered by Mr. Kleckner, of Phila., indorsing the action of the United States Senate in restoring Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. Mr. Jones, of Berks, moved an amendment condemning such action. The amendment was lost by a strict party vote. Pending the discussion, adjourned.

XLth CONGRESS.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 9, 1868.

Congress got to work to-day, on the finance and revenue questions. In the Senate, Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Finance, reported the House bill to prevent fraud in the collection of the tax on distilled spirits, with an amendment striking out the words "in bond," so as to make the provisions of the bill apply to all whisky, whether in bonded warehouses or otherwise. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill passed and went back to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The Senate then took up Senator Morton's resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill abolishing at once all of the existing civil governments in the South. In his remarks Mr. Morton took occasion to denounce General Hancock for his conduct in the Fifth District, and declares that he had nullified the acts of Congress. He said that legislation on this matter is imperatively needed.

Before a vote was reached, the Senate took up the House bill to prevent the further contraction of the currency. A long debate followed. Mr. Fessenden opposed the bill. He saw no good to result from the passage of this bill. In his opinion it was only by a reduction of the currency that the country would be in a condition to resume specie payment. The country had rested quietly under the policy heretofore adopted by Congress providing for the gradual reduction of the currency, but it has been opposed by men who have their multifarious schemes of an unredeemable currency, mere rags, and to yield to them would be an abandonment of this policy. He feared there was danger in this indefinite postponement of a return to specie payments

Weekly Commercial.

A Parisian Dancing Saloon.

On the Boulevard St. Michel, opposite the arcade du Luxembourg, is a long high wall, dotted in gaudy stripes like a barbers' pole, the gateway is spanned by an arch of gaslights, all guarded by the ever present soldier. Entering the gate, one finds himself before the theatre, where a placard informs him at gentlemen are charged one franee admission fee, while ladies are free of charge. Another sender stands guard before the ticket office. Having paid his fee, the visitor turns to the left, and enters the boot-blacking room, here he is brushed and polished up for his ons. Leaving this, he encounters a door-eper who takes his ticket, also another sen-el. Descending now a broad stairway, he enters a large saloon, some twenty feet below the vel of the street. This is the dancing hall. It is about two hundred feet long by a hundred and seventy-five wide, and is divided into ree equal parts by rows of gaudily painted oden columns, running lengthwise of the all. The columns support arches, likewise ainted and gilded, and each arc inscribed, after e fashion of the opera-houses, with the name some celebrated musician, Donizetti, Adam, albicque, Offenbach, Myerbeer, and others. t one end of the hall is a raised platform, on hich are tables where refreshments are pro-ided at treble the prices in ordinary cafes. At other end is a little assemblage or cigar ands—booths, where bouquets, perfumeries, nd confectioneries are sold; also a "pigeon-ole table," and several wheel of fortune con-rivances where men can gamble for "drinks." Along the sides are narrow arcades evoted to tables and high priced refreshments, orty-five magnificent chandeliers light up the ene. In the center of the room is the musi-ans' stand, decorated in the harmony with the eneral gay character of the room. There is a ingenious pincard arrangement to announce o different dances, so that the by turning a nob the sign changes from "polka" to "waltz," "mazurka," &c. To fill so large a hall the band necessarily very large, containing twenty-ur pieces—violins, bass viols, small brass and ood instruments, a triangle and a drum. In e corner of the room sits a dozen or more ole-iers with shiny brass helmets and steel cast-plates armed with pistols and sabres to reserve order. At half past eight the music announces playing, and a few of the early-rised dancers of lowly position, looking about em as if they were in the great ball. But soon the crowd egins to come. Flocks of young men come rancing down the stairs, shouting and kicking p their heels like schoolboys let loose. The ladies," too, arrive in twos and threes, and, ostly unattended, giving cordial greetings to e another young men as they come, kissing this ne, slapping that on the shoulder, or bestowing n another a playful blow. Then, as the music icks up its heels, and swings his partner clear off the floor. On the part of the ladies, the style of dancing may be described as "elevated"—about five feet, I should say, or as high as a Bubble French girl can kick.

To a stranger, looking for the first time on he scene, it seems almost impossible to believe its eyes. Are these human beings—this mad, rancing, limping, gesticulating crowd? Such night well have been the orgies of Satyrs and acchanals of yore, or of devils and witches and arlocks; but of men and women in the enlightened nineteenth century, and in the very oastof capital of civilization, it seems incredible. Burnt cork Sambo on the nigger minstrel tage, or tinseled Signorita Filmsilli before the ootlights of the Varieties, may do some remark-ble foot-flourishing, but it will be done with reluctance" here. Watch one of these *coutts* as she comes running across the floor, raising her skirt that she may not stumble; she jumps up, and, throwing her foot fairly into the face of the bystander, she whirls a couple back to swing her partner, who picks her up and lifts her on to his shoulder, from whence she jumps down with a new flourish. She is a lar dancer, and there is a crowd collected around her that is hard to get a sight of her. There is another, who though she does not dance so *high*, makes such rapid and extravagant gestures with her arms, as she dances, that she, too, draws an admiring crowd. But says the reader, "Very low characters these you are describing a quite improper place." Do you think? Let us circulate around the room and see who are here.

Curious Notions of the Blind.

From the London Quarterly Review.

Touch does much for the blind boy, but brings him not a single grain nearer to the discerning of colors. Where, therefore, touch fails him, he can gain little external help, and presently will be altogether at sea. Things apparently identical in form may differ in size, may also totally differ in essence and in nature, and of this difference he may be wholly unconscious. He may form, and does form, the most outrageously incorrect ideas on some common matters, though he may continually amuse and surprise you by clever guesses, or gleams of what seems like intuition. Du Puiseaux, the son of a professor of philosophy in the University of Paris, was in some things one of the shrewdest men of his day, having attained considerable proficiency in botany and chemistry; but he was blind. He had a wonderful memory for sounds, and could, it is said, recognize by their voice persons whom he had only once heard. He could easily tell if he was in a street or in a blind alley. In a large room or a small one, but he believed that astronomers were the only people who saw with telescopes, and that they had their eyes differently formed from other men. Nor was his notion about the use of optical a wholly incorrect. "The eye," said he "is an organ on which the air should have the same effect as my stick on my hand." The boy upon whom Cheseden operated for a cataract had clearly been of the same opinion. Even when restored to sight, he believed that the objects he looked on touched his eyes, as those which he felt touched his skin, and he consequently had no true idea of distance. "He asked which was the sense that deceived him, the sight or the touch?" He wondered how a likeness of his father's face could be got in so small a space as his mother's watch case; it seemed to him as impossible as getting a bushel into a pint measure. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that when some one asked Du Puiseaux if he would not be very glad to have his sight, he replied: "If it were not for curiosity, I would rather have long arms; it seems to me that my hands would teach me better what is passing in the moon than your eyes or telescopes; and, besides, the eyes cease to see sooner than the hands to touch. It would, therefore, be as well to improve the organ I have as to give me the one I want." Abundant evidence of a similar kind might still be adduced, but this seems enough to prove that even among the educated blind people there must be a large section of the physical and metaphysical world of which their idea is to a great extent vague and worthless.

English Critics.

It is a practice with the London papers to charge the "Yankees" with exaggerating matters beyond reasonable belief, and our Western papers are cited as affording peculiar illustrations. But the *Spectator* is challenging the laurels of any of them. In a recent article it assails the whole English people with ruthless bitterness as dishonest and thievish. It rants by the column after this fashion:

Our army arrangements break down incessantly, because contractors, sub-contractors and purveyors generally are supposed to be steeped to the lips in fraud. A man who has a contract given in a Government office in which some one has not secured a "perquisite," or an "advantage" or a "profit," of which he would not for the world have his employers fornfally conscious; which, has not, in fact, given some one, usually a gentlemen, the opportunity for thieving. Our whole system of providing for stated needs by "open tender," the stupidest of all conceivable systems—for its theory is that Jones is Robinson's equal in a manufactory, which Jones is not—is openly based on the assumption and presumption perfectly true, that without open tender the department will sell the contract, will, in fact, steal a large sum out of the national treasury. Our national difficulty is jobbery, that is, theft—the practice every municipality is certain unless watched, to indulge in, of robbing the citizens to enrich its own members or other favored individuals. Even, Parliament, even the Cabinet, the flower, or supposed flower, of Parliamentary life, is not beyond the same suspicion.

And again, in a still more sweeping indictment the *Spectator* charges:

The state of England is a bad one: and there cannot be a doubt that the master vice of the middle classes, we had almost written their master passion, was thieving. *We doubt if a race ever existed among whom pecuniary dishonesty was so general or so deeply affected the structure of society.* We consider ourselves a virtuous people, the salt of the earth; and it is not too much to say, that at this moment the basis of half our laws, the cause of half or more than half our administrative weakness, the root of three-fourths of our social difficulties, is the well founded belief that a middle class Englishman, if he gets anything like a chance, will thieve, will expend his brain, his time, and his energies in able efforts to steal money which is not his.

The *Spectator* claims to be a respectable and high-toned journal, than which there is none more aristocratic in all London. Yet it is plainly self-evident to every well-informed person that this wholesale denunciation of the English people is not "exaggeration" only, but absolute falsehood. It can hardly be paralleled editorially in America, but the slang of the loose slang of any Hoosier weekly on the Western prairies. Had not the *Spectator* best attend to the beam in its own eye before attempting to pluck the mote out of ours!

William Donovan, the murderer of the Scullib family, has just been sentenced by the Court of York county to suffer the penalty of the law.

Extraordinary Self-Destruction of a Young Boy, Eleven Years Old, on Account of His Brother Being Sent to Prison.

Yesterday morning shortly before eleven o'clock Jacob Bullach, a boy only eleven years old, committed suicide by hanging himself by means of his comforter at his mother's residence, No. 411 West Twenty-fifth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues. From inquiries made it appears that the deceased was devotedly attached to an elder brother named Lawrence Bullach, and the latter was lately committed by Justice Dodge to the Island as a confirmed drunkard, his mother, a widow, having requested the Judge to adopt this plan for his reformation. The little boy has been plunged into the deepest despondency since his brother has been sent to prison, and has repeatedly implored his mother to go to the Police Court and try and get him released, but in vain, however, that it would be better for the young man to be kept in a place where he could not gain access to liquor, Mrs. Bullach has persistently refused to get Lawrence discharged. Yesterday morning Jacob made a last appeal to his mother, but she turned a deaf ear to his entreaties and went out to market, leaving him crying bitterly. On her return home she found some difficulty in opening the door, and when she at last succeeded in doing so she discovered to her horror her little boy hanging by his comforter from one of the pegs behind the door, quite dead. Her shrieks of alarm quickly brought in the neighbors, and a doctor was sent for and the body of the boy conveyed. Medical assistance was of no avail, as life was quite extinct. Mrs. Bullach, who is a French woman has endeavored to support her family honestly for some time past, having been left a widow with a large family. There is little doubt that grief for his brother's imprisonment prompted the boy to take away his life, and the circumstance has created the greatest excitement in the neighborhood. In order for the brother's release from Blackwell's Island has been signed by Justice Dodge to release him to be present at the burial of deceased.

Coroner Keenan held an inquest on the body and the jury rendered a ve dict corresponding with the foregoing facts. Deceased was a bright, intelligent lad, but of an extremely sensitive nature.—*N. Y. Herald, Sunday.*

English Perils in Abyssinia.

If Sir Robert Napier, the commander of the Abyssinian expedition, does not press forward with all celerity to strike good home blows at King Theodore's most vulnerable points, it is plain that the English people will derive very little glory from their new little war. The preliminary operations were discouraging. At the point of landing on the Red Sea there was no article of consumption fit for man and beast. Everything—even hay, grain and water—had to be transported to the locality, and confusion reigned supreme. And while the army of Napier's contingent inactively was easily explained in the light of the news by mail. The climate is evidently working for King Theodore, and all he has to do is to assist by avoiding a battle and cutting off the supply trains. The expedition is only likely to reach its destination at the commencement of the fatal rainy season, the time appointed for its return. Altogether the prospects respecting this Abyssian war are sufficient to justify the worst forebodings of the English press.

Saving.

A man is very apt to deceive himself into the idea that he cannot save, and it is of no use attempting it. He convinces himself that his income is little enough for present necessities, and puts off the hope of accumulating, if he forms it at all, to the happy period when he sould be in better circumstances. His circumstances do, perhaps, improve, but his wants have extended as much, and still the time for saving is far ahead. Thus he goes on and on, resolving and resolving, until he is at last surprised to see gray hairs, which neither his cares nor his diligence in one of his ordinary wages, or by death, which cruelly cuts him off in the very midst of the best intentions in the world. Did any man, we would ask, experience a falling off in his income, so large as five, ten, or fifty in a week? Many will answer they have. Did they continue to live at a reduced rate? They reply, we did so; we were compelled to do it. Very well and good; we say, "you did a dollar better being compelled to live a dollar a week cheaper, and compelling yourself to do it? Or, suppose stationary wages and a rising produce market—did you not find enough to spare from once a penny a loaf, and other provisions in proportion, you still continued to make your income procure something like the usual exhibition of victuals? You answer yes. And where, I would ask, the difference between spending only a small extra sum upon certain articles of food, and laying it by for accumulation, supposing it not to be so needed? It is clear that if you had the fortitude and strength of mind to give the savings as much a matter of compulsion as the other circumstances are, you would save. You have, therefore, no excuse to present for not saving it except that you are too weak-minded to abstain from using money that is in your power.

Growth of San Francisco.

The annual assessment rolls of San Francisco since 1850 show great fluctuations in the value of its real estate. In 1850 it was (not including improvements) $16,849,053; at the end of the decade, in 1860, it had fallen to $14,173,-275, and the year before it was only $15,551,-565. The same depression was observable in improvements; in 1854-5 they were assessed at $9,120,965; in 1859-60 had fallen to $6,323,985. In five years the depreciation in the value of the old buildings had swallowed up the total sum sunk in new edifices and $2,600,000 besides. In 1861 the real estate roll showed a marked improvement, and stood at $14 steamships and 116 sailing vessels, which, with the 39 in course of construction, gives a total of 504 ships of war.

Dickens in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphians appear to have given Mr. Dickens a generous welcome, and are pleased with his reading. Of his first reading, Monday evening, the *North American* says: "The audience last evening assembled to see and hear Mr. Dickens of course filled Concert Hall in every part. Not a vacant seat was to be seen anywhere. But the most marked feature of the gathering was the very great preponderance of the most intelligent and influential classes of this community. It was indeed an audience distinguished for the number of persons of mark and intellect. It was also composed of those who seemed highly to appreciate the man and the entertainment, but it was not an enthusiastic audience to the extent that he has met with in New York.

Gambling Extraordinary.

The newspapers have a story of Commodore Vanderbilt seeing a black-leg's bluff at poker, and going a thirty-thousand-dollar steamboat better, but this is hardly up to an affair of which we recollect reading long since in a Mississippi paper. In the days when the Hon George Poindexter represented the State in the Federal Senate, say some thirty-five years ago, before the time of railroads, he started from Natchez by an up-river boat on his way to Washington. The Agricultural Bank, having a heavy deposit to make in one of the Pittsburgh banks, entrusted the money to his charge. Before twenty-four hours had elapsed some of the sporting fraternity were making up a little game, and invited the Senator to take a hand, to which, notaing loth, he consented. The game ran about the usual course of such things while the professionals were taking the measure of their intended victim, and guessing at the size of his pile. When these points were settled to their satisfaction, the business began in earnest. An overpowering hand was dealt to Mr. Poindexter, upon which he made a small bet, and the other players, with one exception, who "saw him" and went a thousand dollars better. To this he responded with another thousand dollars better, when the game was spelled. "I see your thousand" said he, "and go thirty thousand better"—for, perceiving that his customer was pretty flush, he did not dare risk a few thousands. Poindexter replied that that was more money than he had, but he would put up his pile, which was probably in sight. This the other denied to be the law. "Certainly," said Mr. P., "I always understand that a gentleman has got a right to a show for his money." Not to be outdone in courtesy, the stranger and the gambler appealed to the "gentlemen" present, who sustained him. "Come," said the ruffian, throwing down a well-filled pocketbook, and laying his watch upon it, "I see your thirty and go you fifty better, and give you five minutes to raise the money." It was the turn of the astonished gambler to call for a count, but before Mr. Poindexter got through with the hundred and fifty thousand he threw down his hand—there being too many spectators to make it safe to raise a row—and, with his companions, went ashore at the next woodyard.—*Mobile Times.*

The Pennsylvania Militia.

Adjutant General D. B. McCreary, although only two months in office, presents an interesting report of the operations of the Military Department of the State. He makes a valuable suggestion, which should receive the early attention of the Legislature, and that is the extension of the military tax law of Philadelphia to the State at large. He also recommends that the minimum number required to constitute a company should be reduced. The exhibit of the organized militia shows that there are in Philadelphia one regiment of Grey Reserves, comprising eight companies; one entitled the National Guards, comprising eight companies; six other companies of infantry, one of cavalry and three of artillery. Chester county has one company of infantry, York two, Adams two Schuylkill two, Luzerne two of infantry and one of cavalry, Blair one and Allegheny one. Eighteen counties only send in their returns of enrolled militia, an act of negligence on the part of the Commissioners of the other counties which is highly reprehensible, and which renders them liable to the payment of a heavy fine. The eighteen counties return a total of 121,404 persons subject to military duty. Dauphin returns a total of 5,665. The statement of ordnance, ordnance stores, clothing, &c., is very full, and conveys the information that the State owns seventy cannon, forty-two of which are in the Harrisburg Arsenal, 29,805 muskets, 1,787 rifles, and 2,856 pistols; 1,158 of the latter being revolvers. It may be stated that since the Adjutant General's report was written nine additional companies of infantry have been organized in Philadelphia and two in Allegheny.

Mr. McCulloch on Contraction.

It is stated that Secretary McCulloch, on Friday last, declared that contraction of the currency must stop, and that expansion, to some degree, must be recognized. There is a good deal of ground for this statement, and yet it is notorious that in view of the appalling scarcity of money the Secretary has constantly continued his contraction policy. There is no better barometer than that of gold, and we have seen how steadily, and almost rapidly, within the last three weeks, it has advanced, doubtless in response to the popular appeals for a more widely diffused circulating medium. While the country will set its face like a flint against the Democratic project of repudiation, foreshadowed in the resolutions of the Ohio and Indiana Copperheads, it is scarcely less earnest in the demand that some of the means by which the ordinary transactions of business and of life can be carried on, are absolutely necessary. If this is done, in connection with a rigid reduction of all unnecessary expenses, according to General Grant's example, and so far as the public debt diminution of the tax list and a thorough collection of the revenue from whisky, added to such a tariff upon foreign products as will encourage our own industry, and prevent the constant and ruinous shipping of gold, the material interests of the people will be immediately vitalized in every section.

The Gold Flurry.

A New York letter says: Gold is up to $140 @140½, and if it does not go several per cent. higher before the week is out, it will not be the fault of the speculators for a rise, who are resorting to every imaginable expedient to create a panic feeling. At one moment the street is astounded with some manufactured telegram from Washington, announcing that this or that or the other dreadful thing is going to be done, either with reference to the finances or Southern reconstruction. The older heads are not deceived by this game, but as the greenhorns allow themselves to be influenced by it, there is a pressure to sell, and the premium accordingly advances.

As soon as a point is reached at which it will pay the combination to take the back track, going force of the French navy now amounted to 514 steamships and 116 sailing vessels, which, with the 39 in course of construction, gives a total of 504 ships of war.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 15, 1868.

The banks, we learn, are extending their discount lines more liberally, which accommodates the bulk of their customers. Various branches of trade are represented in the offerings, but there is very little representation of new buyers in them. There is a decided increase in the ability of private capitalists to extend their purchases of good paper at a slight concession in rates.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, report the following quotations for governments, as received from Jay Cooke & Co., their New York correspondents:—U. S. 6s, 1881, 109¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 109¾; do 1864, 109¾; do 1865, May and November, 107¾; do 1865, January and July, 105¾; U. S. 10-40s, 103¾; May 1865, Compounds, 117⅝; June 7-30s, 108⅝; July 7-30s, 106⅝; Gold, 138⅜; 5-20s, 1867, 105¾.

Messrs. James T. Brady & Co., bankers, report the following rates for governments today:—Gold, 139¼; U. S. 6s, 1881, 109¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 109¾; do 1864, 106¾; do 1865, 107¾; U. S. 10-40s, 102¾; U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1865, 105¾; do 1867, 105¾; June 7-30s 105⅝; July do 103¾; December Compounds, 1865, 117¾.

—The following is a statement of the approximate earnings and expenses of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway Company during the month of December ult., and of the earnings and expenses for the fiscal year, ending December 31st, 1867, as compared with the year 1866:

	1867.	1866.	Inc.	Dec.
Freight...	$ 360 060 18	$ 247,-- 00 22	$113,060 18	
Passengers...	178,047 79	187,502 41		$11,514 62
Mail...	8,107 00	7,800 00	307 00	
Express...	7,625 00	7,875 00		250 00
Rents...	7,083 94	7,083 94		
Miscellan's	3,520 00	2,391 98	1,128 45	
Total...	$ 572,772 31	$ 460,-- 53 23	17,500 03	
Expenses...	433,120 23	411,491 72		39,381 49
Net earn's	$ 139,652 08	$ 83,420 51	56,231 57	
Earn's per				
Jan. 1 to				
Dec. 31...	$ 27,-- 27,-- 02	$ 27,-- 27,-- 06		250,003 04
Exp. do...	8,993,-- 77 27	8,747,-- 60 -- 74		246,-- 16 47
Net earn's for 12 mos.	$ 3,-- 33,-- 14 25	$ 2,-- 19,-- 31 02	113,-- 83 23	
Add profits from				
M. & F.	$ 73,-- 00 -- 00	$ 55,-- 00 -- 00	18,-- 00 -- 00	
Total Net				
Earnings...	$ 3,-- 33,-- 14 25	$ 2,-- 19,-- 31 02	131,-- 83 23	

—The railway stock list is without any important changes in the noon quotations to day: Michigan Southern, 87; Cleveland and Pittsburgh, 93½; Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, 100½; Erie, 75½; Chicago and Northwestern, 61½.

—It is said that the bill reported by the Committee of Reconstruction, and the report that the Senate Finance Committee favor a moderate expansion of the currency, were the chief causes that stimulated the advance in the gold premium.

—The street was somewhat agitated this morning by a reported defalcation in the City Bank to the enormous sum of four hundred thousand dollars, by the Second Teller, James Loverich, who disappeared from the Bank last week. The fraud has probably been running for some time past, and was concealed by a series of false or short credits to the accounts of dry dealers. As the position of the Second Teller is in fact the Receiving Teller of the Bank, and by abstracting a portion of the funds deposited, entering the amount correctly in the pass book of the depositor, but entering it short of the total sum, to correspond with the amount abstracted, on the books of the Bank, it was not very difficult to cover up the difference, especially as it seems to have been shifted from one set of depositors to another, and the pass books came to be written up and balanced. In this way it is probable that many of the false entries, now discovered, will be found, upon closer examination, to represent, by transfer from one to another, the same sums originally abstracted. It is believed, this afternoon, that the actual defalcation is largely below the maximum sum rumored early in the day. The bonds and stocks, to the amount of $1,000,000, are held as profits amounting to nearly as much more, or $2,000,000.—*N. Y. Times, yesterday.*

—There was no marked change in the money market yesterday, and the same cheerful feeling seemed to mark business walks, that characterized the greater part of last week. The supply of currency is full, and those who are willingly discount more good short business paper if it were offered. Of course the bank rate is uniformly 6 per cent. Call loans are mostly made outside at 6 per cent, on approved stock collaterals, and 7 per cent. for other descriptions in large amounts on Governments are reported at rates under 6 per cent. The range of rates for the best mercantile paper on the street is 6@7 per cent., according to the credit of such is light. Irregular paper, and such as is below first-rate, is out of favor, and can be placed only at very high rates.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

—In Chicago the week opens up with a more active demand for money—caused largely by the upward turn in the value of breadstuffs—and the market is easier in working rates. The demand for discounts is not confined to any one class of traders, but, on the contrary, all kinds of business are represented among the borrowers. Though in some lines the country collections are represented as being passable, they still are not of sufficient volume to meet the views of the banks, and many drafts are returned unpaid. With some of the banks currency is working closer, and, taking all things into consideration, the market is fully as stringent as it was on the eve of statement day.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 15, 1868.

Commercial transactions continue limited, although in some articles there was a little more doing than at date of our report. We have to special remarks to make other than those to be found below:

Since our last, the receipts of leading articles of produce have been very light. We notice the following: Flour 226 bbls; corn 661 sacks; wheat 70 sacks; barley 191 sacks; rye 208 sacks, and oats 366 sacks.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—Sales reported of pearls at 12c, reduced at 9c, and pots at at the $ lb.

LEAD—Is selling at 12c $ lb.

ATTLE—There is a fair stock in market and prices are nominal, ranging from $3@5 00 $ head, as to quality.

BUTTER—Although receipts have been more liberal than the market is fully supplied, and prices are nominally 30@40c $ lb, as to quality.

EGGS—Scarce and in demand at 30c $ dozen.

BROOMS—We note sales of 108 dozen good western No 2, at $2 75 dozen.

BEANS—Dull at $@3 25 $ bush for small white.

BACON—There is a fair trade doing at 18@19c for sugar-cured hams; 16c for shoulders, and 12½c for sides.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 20c for full weight.

INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 80c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

FAMILY MARKET.

LIVING EXPENSES IN PITTSBURGH.

CAREFULLY REVISED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

OFFICE OF PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 15, 1868.

The following are the retail prices current for the various articles, of the best quality, entering into daily family consumption:

BREAD AND CRACKERS.

Wheat loaf, each	10	Oyster Crackers, ₱ lb	15
Rye	10	Cream	20
Boston Crackers, ₱ lb	10@20	Graham Wafer, ₱ lb	20
Wine	15	Milk Biscuit	20
Soda	15	Ginger Snaps	22
Oyster	15	Family Bread	10
Water	15	Almond Nuts	25
Butter	15	Fancy Crackers	25
Sugar	15	Cracker Meal	15
Graham	15	Crackers	10
Pretzel	15		

BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

Butter, fresh, ₱ lb	40@50	Eggs, fresh, ₱ doz	30@40
Roll Butter	40@45	Do Milk, Cheese	20@25
Pine Apple Cheese	40	Do Cheese, Goshen	30
₱ lb	40@45	Do Cheese, common Ohio	18

FISH—FRESH.

Lake Trout	10	Haddock	8@10
White Fish	10	Halibut	12@15
Herring	10	Cod	10
Catfish	10	Rock	20
Suckers	6@10		

FISH—DRY, SHELL, SMOKED, ETC.

Cod, dry, ₱ lb	10	Mackerel, No. 1 shore	
Lobsters, ₱ cans, each	40	₱ bbl	$ 50
Finnan Haddies, ₱ lb	15	Mackerel, No. 2 large ₱ bbl	7 50
Oysters, ₱ can	20	Mackerel, No. 3 large ₱ bbl	6 50
Pickled Oysters, ₱ gallon	75	White Fish, ₱ ½ bbl	3 50
Fish ₱ lb	10	Salmon, smoked, ₱ lb	35
Fresh Clove and Spiced Oysters, ₱ can	40	Salmon, pickled, ₱ can	40

FLOUR, MEAL, &c.

Water Family, ₱ bbl	$ 00	Extra Superfine, ₱ paper	15
Do ₱ bbl	$12 50	Farina, ₱ paper	25
Extra Family, ₱ bbl	11	Indian Meal, ₱ bush	1 10
In bags	$8 50	Oatmeal ₱ lb	10
Self-rising, ₱ lb	10	Hominy, ₱ lb	10
Fancy St. Louis		Broken Wheat, ₱ lb	10
flour ₱ bbl	$18 00	Hominy, ₱ lb	10

FRUITS, NUTS, ETC., DRY.

Apples ₱ lb	10	Prunes (cooking)	30
Apples ₱ bush	1 00	Prunes (table)	50
Peaches ₱ lb	12@15	Raisins ₱ box	2 50
Peaches, ₱ bush	1 25@1 50	Raisins ₱ lb	20
Peanuts ₱ qt	20	Dates	20
Dried Cherries, ₱ lb	30	Citron ₱ lb	50
Prunes (common)	20	Currants ₱ lb	20
Prunes (assorted)	25	Dates ₱ lb	20
Dried Blackberries, ₱ lb	20	Dried Plums, ₱ lb	40

FRUITS—GREEN, CANNED; OILS, PICKLES, ETC.

Apples ₱ pk	30@50	Assorted Pickles in	
Apples ₱ bbl	$ 00@$ 00	bottles ₱ doz	35
Green corn, Wine-sap	20	Pickles, in jars, ₱ doz	30@50
Strawberries, ₱ lb	60	Pickled Beans, ₱ gallon	1 00
Canned Fruits, ₱ can	25@50	Pickled Cucumbers, ₱ gallon	1 00
Peaches, ₱ can	30	Salad Oil	1 00
Peaches, ₱ bush	1 00	Honey, ₱ lb	20@25
Sassafras, ₱ lb	10	Do Comb	30
Do ₱ gallon	50	Molasses, ₱ gallon	60@75
Pumkins, ₱ lb	5	Do Cucumbers ₱ pint	10
Pumkins, ₱ bush	50	Do Cucumbers ₱ gallon	60

GROCERIES.

Coffee, choice Rio ₱ lb	30	Imperial	7 00@7 50
Do ₱ lb	25	Young Hyson ₱ lb	60
Roast Rio ₱ lb	30	Soda ₱ lb	20
Java ₱ lb	40	Candles, star ₱ lb	20
Do ₱ lb	50	Do tallow	20
African ₱ lb	30	Lard ₱ lb	20
Roasted and ground		Lard Oil ₱ gallon	1 50
Java ₱ lb	45	Rice, S. Carolina, ₱ lb	15
Do Laguayra	40	Salt, fine ₱ bbl	2 50
Do Portorico	40	Soap, rosin ₱ lb	10
Molasses, ₱ gallon	60	Do ₱ box	7 50
New Orleans	1 00	Starch, ₱ lb	10
Sugar, brown ₱ lb	15@16	Do Macaroni, Italian	
Do ₱ lb	20	₱ lb	20
Do American	20	Do ₱ box	2 50
Do Tapioca ₱ lb	25	Vermicelli ₱ lb	20
Do Crushed ₱ lb	20	Do Farina ₱ lb	20
Do Powdered ₱ lb	20	Do Lovering's	25
Do Loaf ₱ lb	20	Do Imperial	25
Do Crushed ₱ lb	20	Do Pearl	20

MEATS—FRESH.

Sirloin, ex cut ₱ lb	20@25	Leg of Mutton ₱ lb	15
Rib Roast, do ₱ lb	20@25	Fore Quarter ₱ lb	12@15
Round, do ₱ lb	20@25	Hind Quarter ₱ lb	15@20
Steak, do ₱ lb	20@25	Do do ₱ lb	20@25
Chuck Roast ₱ lb	15@20	Veal Cutlets ₱ lb	20
Plate Beef ₱ lb	12@15	Veal Chops ₱ lb	20
Corned Beef ₱ lb	12@15	Veal Roast ₱ lb	20
Boiling Beef ₱ lb	12@15	Veal Stew ₱ lb	15
Roasting Beef ₱ lb	20@25	Spare Ribs ₱ lb	15
Boiled Beef ₱ lb	15@20	Pork Chops ₱ lb	20
Corned Beef ₱ lb	10	Pork Roast ₱ lb	20
Hogshead cheese ₱ lb	10	Pork Steak ₱ lb	20
Liver Pudding	10	Sausages ₱ lb	20

MEATS—SALT, SMOKED, ETC.

Dried Beef, ₱ lb	25	Tongues, smoked	
Breakfast bacon	25	₱ each	75
Hams	20	Tongues, pickled, ₱ lb	20
Shoulders	15	Pigs feet, ₱ bbl	7 50
Sides	15	Pigs feet, ₱ ½ bbl	3 75
Corned Beef	10 to 15	Sided Ham, ₱ lb	25
Hogshead cheese ₱ lb	10		

POULTRY AND GAME.

Dressed Chickens, ₱ pair	75@$1 00	Live Chickens, ₱ pair	$1 00
Dressed Ducks, ₱ pair	75@$1 00	Live Ducks, ₱ pair	75@$1 00
Dressed Turkey, ₱ lb	30@35	Live Turkeys, ₱ lb	25@30
Dressed Geese, ₱ lb	30@35	Live Geese, ₱ lb	25@30
Dressed Geese, ₱ lb	30@35	Rabbits, ₱ pair	25

SPICES OF A PURE QUALITY.

Cinnamon, ₱ lb	$ 00	Cayenne, ₱ lb	$ 00
Allspice, ₱ lb	30	Mace, ₱ lb	1 00
Cloves, ₱ lb	50	Nutmegs, ₱ lb	75
Pepper, ₱ lb	30	Mustard, ₱ lb	30
		Chocolate & Ginger, ₱ lb	25

SUNDRIES.

Broom, each	25	Indigo, White Vinegar	80
Broom, dozen	2 50@3 00	Cotton Wicking, ₱ lb	30
Baking Powders, ₱ can	20	Canton Ginger, ₱ lb	2 00
Pepper Extract, ₱ bottle	25	Spices, ₱ lb	50
Worcester Extract, ₱ bottle	25	Spanish Liquorice, ₱ lb	50
Matches, ₱ box	25	Blacking, ₱ box	25
Horse Washing Powder, ₱ lb	25	Fluoret Soda, ₱ lb	10
Bed Cords	25	Bath Brick, ₱ lb	10
Tubs, each	30 to 125	Wheaten Grits, ₱ lb	15
Pails, each	25	Oat Meal, ₱ lb	15
Chair Virginia	25	Clothes Pins, ₱ doz	25

VEGETABLES, ETC.

Parsnips, ₱ bunch	5	Cauliflowers	10@15
Carrots, ₱ bunch	5	Cranberries, ₱ qt	10@15
Turnips, ₱ bush	50	Cranberries, ₱ bbl	$ 00@$ 00
Sage leaves, ₱ lb	50	Cabbages, ₱ head	10@20
Onions, ₱ bush	1 50 to 2 00	Potatoes, ₱ bush	1 50 to 2 00
Potatoes, ₱ bbl	3 00	Sweet potatoes, ₱ lb	10
Pickles, ₱ bunch	5	Do ₱ bush	2 00
Celery, ₱ bunch	5	Do Celery, ₱ head	10
Onions, ₱ bbl	6 00	Do ₱ lb	10

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 15, 1868.

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INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 80c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

FRUIT MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, January 18, 1868.

The following are the quotations:

New Layer Raisins, ₱ box	$ 00@$ 00

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1868.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
Six copies, twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

GENERAL GRANT BEFORE THE COUNTRY.

Papers which are laboring in the interest of other parties for the Presidency, have been of late very much exercised in regard to the reticence of GEN. GRANT, and some of them are deeply exercised on the subject of his retaining the war office and thus being the instrument or rather medium through which the President's military orders find their way to the public. But, surely, to those who remember anything of the history of former campaigns, especially when military men were the candidates, reticence can hardly be considered a fault but rather a virtue. Twice has the party, which is now represented by the Republican organization, offered for the suffrages of the people a candidate for the Presidency whose claims rested mainly upon his services in the field and military prestige. In the one case success was the result; in the other defeat. One candidate was outspoken enough, and as he went "swinging round the circle," we all remember how honeyed were the words which were spoken to the multitudes who assembled to hear the Hero of Lundy's Lane and Mexico. The other was a man of simple, unostentatious bearing, who seldom appeared on the platform and was taken up as a candidate when far less was known of his political sentiments than is now known of those of General GRANT. Indeed, he was not so much the choice of politicians as he was of the people, who, by their determined support, compelled the convention simply to ratify their choice. Yet we all know how the victor at Buena Vista adhered to the principles of the party which had trusted him and made him its standard bearer, so that during his lifetime not a single complaint was alleged against him as having betrayed the confidence which had been reposed in him. Indeed the examples of treachery to the party which had put them in office are not found among military men, but among civilians and trained politicians—experts at speech-making and letter-writing.

For this there are very good reasons. One of the first lessons which a soldier learns is that of faithful adherence to the cause with which he permits himself to be identified and where he is free to act. Honor, which is the great prize, demands that he shall act with honesty and truthfulness toward his friends.

In the case under consideration, moreover, it is impossible to conceive of any reason why at this juncture the Acting Secretary of War should so belie himself as to professedly act in concert with the party to whose principles he is secretly opposed. His present position, the guardian of a nation's gratitude, and the honorable prize obtained by the ability displayed in the camp and field, is really one more to be desired than that of the Presidency, and in accepting of the latter position with all its difficulties and its limited term, he would really be making a sacrifice; and it is inconceivable that he should be willing to place himself in a false position—a position which must necessarily lessen him in the eyes of all honorable men, and dim the luster which now covers his name—and by a political treachery unparalleled among those who have been illustrious on the field in his country's annals, make himself to be execrated in the future as he has been honored in the past.

But too much is made of the so-called reticence of the illustrious soldier; and indeed it may be fairly charged that it is rather an assumption than a reality. For while it is freely conceded that he has had the good sense not to allow himself to be trapped into conversation upon political topics by every newsmonger who was watching for a word to be heralded all over the country, out of its true connection, and without the possibility of circumstances being taken into account for its proper interpretation—it is, on the other hand, just as true that when he has spoken in the line of duty and when the exigencies of the country and the circumstances of his service have demanded that he should speak, his utterances have always been manly, straight-forward and such as were heartily indorsed by the mass of those who in the main support the policy of Congress as against Mr. JOHNSON. In the removal of SHERIDAN he was found to be in the right place, and his desire for his retention and his line of policy to be maintained was not concealed nor capable of being mistaken. Now what more than these indications are required may well be a matter of amazement. Surely it is enough that he speaks when it is necessary, that his utterances are such as command the approval of the really reliable and right thinking of the people, and that his sympathizers are unmistakably *not* with those who oppose the plans of reconstruction and management of the questions growing out of the suppression of the rebellion which have received the most general indorsement of the loyal people.

In relation to his retention of the War Office, and his perfunctory issuing of certain orders of the President, it is hardly necessary to say that it is absurd to hold a military officer and subordinate responsible for the acts of his superior; and if blame is to be attached to any one, it must certainly fall upon those who, while they made it necessary that these orders should pass through the War Office and be promulgated by the General in-Chief, did not restrain the President in the exercise of this power of removal of the district or department commanders. How it is possible, moreover, that the retention of the secretaryship can be construed into a throwing of his weight into the scale and a giving of his influence for the purposes of the President, and as a support of his policy, is past comprehension, in the recollection of his private letters to the President, deploring his course and asking for a reversal or withholding of orders which were obnoxious to the loyal people. And it is still more wonderful that this should be alleged against him by those who so strongly sustained his predecessor in his determination to hold on to the office, notwithstanding the fact that he must also have been made the vehicle through whom the obnoxious orders of the self-willed Executive must have reached the General-in-Chief and the subordinate commanders. It is impossible to see why that which would have been a virtue in Mr. STANTON can be a vice in the honest and loyal, well tried and ever faithful commander of our military forces.

The people have said that GRANT is their choice for the Presidency, and we hold that, if the Republican Convention ratify this choice of the people, and put him forth on the Republican platform, it will be time enough then for him to give further utterance. If he accepts that nomination, it will be contrary to every expectation which his past career makes reasonable, if he should prove false to the pledge which, by that acceptance, he will give to those who honor him with their trust and confidence.

NEW PHASE OF RECONSTRUCTION.

The course of the President has rendered necessary further legislation to insure the reconstruction of the Southern States and their restoration in all respects to their proper places as members of the Union. And it is due to truth to say, that about all that Congress need do is to supply the omissions and correct the mistakes of last winter, when the warnings of Gen. GRANT of the consequences of entrusting too much to Mr. JOHNSON were strangely enough unheeded. Though it was not so intended, nevertheless it so turned out, that the running of the reconstruction machine was left pretty much to him, and of late he has run it. It is now proposed to take it out of his hands—a confession of Congress of their own shortcoming in this particular. A bill has been prepared to meet the case. It will be found in another part of this paper. It virtually gives the whole subject into the hands of Gen. GRANT. The principle we do not like; but we perceive not what else can be done, if reconstruction is not to be abandoned altogether. Better a thousand times to have the work in Gen. GRANT'S than ANDREW JOHNSON'S hands, where no part of it should ever have been left. It is alleged that this change is expected by some to break down Gen. GRANT as a Presidential candidate. All we have to say is, it will be the first great undertaking he has not carried through with increased fame to himself.

This falling back on Gen. GRANT is the greatest compliment that Congress could pay to him. It is the highest possible indorsement of his statesmanship as well as his military qualifications; and although the labors incident to so great a trust cannot be coveted by him, yet he will not shrink from them; and if in the end he prove himself not fully equal to the emergency, it will be the first of the many instances when the country, after vain endeavors, has turned to him and been disappointed.

THE AMERICANS AND THE ATHENIANS.

ROBINSON CRUSOE, on his lonely island, was enabled to discover and derive benefit from qualities and powers in himself of which he had never suspected the existence while surrounded by his fellow-men. One of DEFOE'S objects in the composition of his wonderful book, was certainly to indicate this possibility, or latent power in every member of society. As few of us are likely to enjoy ROBINSON'S opportunities of self-improvement, or to be placed in the circumstances which prompted him to the extraordinary development of his talents—it might be worth while to inquire whether we make the most of the opportunities we do enjoy, or accomplish in the way of self-evolution all that we ought to accomplish.

The man of the woods, or the natural man is all for himself. To use an arithmetical illustration often used before, he is a numerical unit, an absolute whole, without relation to any but himself. His life, therefore, is the perfection of egoism. The civil or social man, on the other hand, is a fractional unit whose value depends upon a denominator, or his relation to the community. His perfection or social worth consists in the absence of egoism, or rather on the degree in which his *ego*, or his *moi*, as the French say, is transferred from himself to the society of which he is a member. Hence the individual, in becoming a member of society, surrenders rights and privileges. He is subjected to pressure that may dwarf him, to restraints that may cause his partial deterioration, and to fetters that may become exceedingly disagreeable. In return for the sacrifices made by the individual, society is bound to see, not only that each member is benefited, but that he is benefitted as much as possible by the social organization.

The late Dr. JAMES W. ALEXANDER, of New York, used to say that Americans more closely than any other modern people resemble the ancient Athenians. We forget the points of likeness he specified, and cannot help assuming that he had in view our Athenian possibilities rather than our actual state. We have certainly put off many of the lineaments of the people from whom we derive our origin, and in evolving a new national character we may under Republican institutions be gradually reproducing the national features of the *demos* of Athens. Let us hope that we shall be distinguished rather by their excellencies than their defects. Sociability, vivacity, enthusiastic recognition of the ideal; fickleness, ingratitude and devotion to pleasure were prominent traits of that celebrated people. Some of our readers may hardly be aware how unsocial we are as a people—how much as individuals we live to ourselves. Where do we see Americans of good character and virtuous habits mingling in considerable numbers with one another, freely and for mere amusement in the open air, whether in parks or public gardens? Not only are the dwellers in the country cut off from the dwellers in the towns, but the inhabitants of the cities, and even the merest hamlets, are divided and subdivided into countless little cliques and coteries, each revolving around some individual or family, whose attractive power it would sometimes be difficult to understand or describe. In few regions is there any place of reunion, in which the members of the several classes may meet even by accident and without the possibility of contagion. It appears that there is something most unathenian in the spirit of our people, whether a constitutional fondness for isolation, or a dread of social contamination, which guards against the contingencies of meeting and greeting. Our political assemblies are animated by some single idea pertaining to the general welfare. Public spirit, or coincidence of opinion in politics, is the attracting and binding principle of such gatherings. Our Church congregations consist of those of the same belief on religious subjects; each is a household of faith. And yet we are assured that many of these households, if not precisely divided against themselves are formed by aggregation rather than accretion,—and that the current of common life supposed to pervade the body, is strong only in parts—circulating with such languor in some and so entirely wanting in others, that mortification is often imminent in the extremities when there seems almost a redundance of vitality in the head and central organs. The Lyceum and Lecture Room need hardly be referred to as a center of interest and gathering. The institution among us is surely moribund, if not already departed for the lunar sphere, where ASTOLFO, in ARIOSTO'S poem, found laid up for preservation so great a variety of things once deemed valuable on earth. Society, by its very constitution, was evidently designed to educate its members. It is a grand conservatory of memories and traditions, which it is intended to transmit; of principles and observances which it is intended to inculcate. And in some countries these ends are most effectually accomplished. But where the aged meet in company with the aged, if they meet at all, and where the young assemble with the young, what social traditions are practically handed down? What social principles are practically inculcated? The old and middle-aged are unenlivened by the presence and graces of the young; the young are unrestrained and uninstructed by the accumulated wisdom and ingrained refinement of their seniors. The associations of the former are consequently marked by a dull, humdrum, excessively staid character which might easily be avoided, and the gatherings of the latter are marked by an immature, frivolous, uncultured character which can hardly appear admirable to ourselves, and which certainly appears very unattractive to intelligent observers from abroad. However independent we may feel as free American citizens, we may scarcely disdain the latter consideration until it shall appear that the social graces and individual dignity of bearing are not essentially the same all over the civilized world.

Then, again, how little effort we make to derive the advantages we might derive from the representatives of many nationalities living among us. Hence foreigners describe our Americanism as a sapless, juiceless thing—combustible as tow, explosive as nitro-glycerine—with angularities directed to all the thirty-two points and without geniality, or cosmopolitan spirit. This is not our character, but it seems to be so, and the appearance produces many of the effects of the reality—just as barrels, skillfully arranged, have on occasion answered the purpose of Parrot guns. Strangers are repelled, and neither they nor we experience the advantages of unconstrained intercourse and fluent sympathy. Many among us appear to have received and retained the notions about foreigners which were the general and orthodox belief in England and Scotland at the time of our fathers' emigration. Squire WESTERN, as we learn from the veracious history of TOM JONES, did not think favorably of either the Germans or the French. In this particular we may undoubtedly plead Athenian precedent, who divided mankind into Greeks and Barbarians.

ITALY AND FRANCE.

COLERIDGE, in referring to his connection with the *Morning Post* newspaper, tells with some quiet exultation how by comparing the events of the past with the occurrences of the passing day, he succeeded more than once in foretelling the disclosures of the future. He, however, was not only a philosopher but a poet, and his vaticinations may have been aided by an afflatus from APOLLO. Ordinary journalists who, in the way of quotidian duty, presume to anticipate things to come, almost inevitably soon find themselves in the position of PENELOPE'S suitors—the web woven in the evening is found unravelled in the morning. Instead of trying to unfold the future course of events in Italy, let us glance back a few years and try to collect some aid in the elucidation of the state of things in that troubled country, and of the attitude of the French Emperor towards them. These are subjects in which all are, or ought to be, interested.

For centuries there have been individual Italians who have dreamed and wished for the union of all parts of the peninsula under one head. These have generally been scholars whose imaginations had been inflamed by contemplating the grandeur of ancient Rome. But in the entire absence of the means, or likelihood of effecting such a result, the idea does not appear to have ever excited much enthusiasm, or prompted much effort. There was little or nothing in the history of the country to educate the people into the adoption, or attempt to realize the thought. The grand though little republics of the middle ages were a satisfactory fulfillment of the highest conceptions of most Italians in regard to human well-being and political prosperity; and since the decay or absorption of these republics, the recollection of their glories and the hope of their restoration, have been the delight and the dream of the most virtuous and patriotic Italians. When the idea of a united Italy first gained general acceptance among the people, it was not the product of the historical development of the country, but of the prospect of gaining another end.

As the means of attaining the same end the idea had occurred to many Italians in different countries; but first within the memory of us all, circumstances seemed to render the means effective to the purpose proposed. GARIBALDI first impressed his countrymen so deeply and widely as to give to the whole country, from the Alps to the Strait of Messina, one mind and one soul. When politicians saw that all hearts had begun to beat in unison with GARIBALDI'S; that all sectional sentiments and animosities were absorbed in the feelings he inspired, and that he had become a rallying center towards which all had begun to gravitate, perhaps there was only one idea distinct and practicable which nearly all Italians could receive and unite in trying to execute, and that was the expulsion of the foreigner. For as MACHIAVELLI said centuries ago, "this barbarous rule is a stench to all." (*Ad ognuno puzza questo barbaro dominio*). VICTOR EMANUEL was compelled either openly or secretly to give in to the movement or go down himself. LOUIS NAPOLEON seemed undecided what course to take. The Paris journals, supposed to be animated by him, at first denounced GARIBALDI universally and without measure, and then almost in the same breath began to wish for and prophesy his success. To-day he was a filibuster WALKER; next day he was a WASHINGTON. Both their denunciations and their eulogies were delivered with the same air of sincerity. Perhaps he wanted the Austrians driven from Venetia; he certainly did not want the Bourbons driven from Naples, or all Italy united under the sway of VICTOR EMANCEL.

According to foreign journals lately received, M. ROUHER affirms that "the Emperor initiated the war of 1859 in order to humiliate Austria, which power, threatening to become master of the Italian peninsula, was a standing menace to France; that the union of Lombardy, Parma and Piacenza under the sceptre of the King of Italy was a legitimate proceeding, but that the conquest of the two Sicilies, effected by GARIBALDI and accepted by the King, was a blamable proceeding—a proceeding which established a heavy solidarity between monarchy and the revolution *of which to-day the King of Italy has to bear the punishment.* He further asserts that the seizure of Umbria and the Marches was a crime—a crime which the Emperor blamed, but of which French interests did not counsel the punishment."

It has been alleged of late that the French Emperor has been compelled by the prevailing sentiment at home to change his policy towards Italy. There can be no doubt that a very enlightened and influential portion of the French people have always been hostile to GARIBALDI'S enterprise, and especially disgusted with the attitude assumed towards them by VICTOR EMANUEL. One of the oldest of the French Reviews, conducted with great ability, and receiving contributions from all the most eminent men of letters in France, and said to be more extensively read than any other publication of the kind on the continent, in 1860 advocated the views which seem at present to be the policy of the Emperor. Two or three short extracts from one of its numbers for July, 1860, may serve to throw some light upon the present relations between Italy and France.

"The Italians," says a writer in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, "who were yesterday most opposed to the idea of unity, have been converted to its adoption, not directly by a true faith in unity, but indirectly, because unity appeared to them the sole practicable means of reaching the independence of Italy and freedom from foreign domination. From this situation many consequences result which the Italians would do well to look at in cold blood. Italian unity being an arm of war against the foreigner, the means invoked to expel Austria from the Peninsula, every effort to establish unity, became for Italy itself an external danger: for each attempt towards unity was a direct menace against Austria. Nor is this the only peril from without which the movement for unity encounters. The sovereignties which this movement assails in the peninsula, those of the King of Naples and the Pope, exist by virtue of treaties, and are closely bound to European public law. The blows directed against the King of Naples and the Pope resound therefore far beyond Italy, raise against Italy a multitude of formidable adversaries, and create a European commotion. How are the Italians to sustain these blows? It is manifest that, in such an enterprise, they have not at their disposal either that unanimous popular enthusiasm whose irresistible expansion bears away thrones, nor those concentrated and organized resources which become the fearful instrument of a revolutionary dictatorship." Again—"The Piedmontese government sustains before Europe the responsibility of the Italian revolution; it has been called to profit by the good fortunes of this revolution; *it is destined to undergo the evil.* Its position has never been more critical. If it works for the overthrow of the King of Naples, it will but hasten the hour of its own peril. The King of Naples overthrown, the annexation of the two Sicilies accomplished, Piedmont would be immediately drawn and pushed by this movement against Austria. Piedmont, however, would not have time to create an Italian army—we say purposely an Italian army—for it is evident that the old and solid Piedmontese army no longer exists. Its best troops have gone with the brigade of Savoy. The Lombard, Romagnole, Tuscan, Parmesan and Modenese recruits distributed through the old organization, do not and for long will not constitute a homogeneous army, nor will they be inspired with true military spirit." This was all verified in the last war with Austria. Of course the writer did not anticipate that Italy would have Prussia for an ally. One more extract—"Does the Turin government flatter itself that it can again draw France over the Alps? This calculation, if it existed, would indicate little patriotism. What would independence twice due to foreign intervention be worth to Italy? Let not Italy count on the aid of France in any war with Austria which may result from her countenance of revolution." "We would warn the Italian patriots that they deceive themselves grossly, if they think to flatter France by raising a brutal cry of overthrow against the Bourbons of Naples, merely because they are Bourbons. We have no dynastic fanaticism, we know that the house of Bourbon has had degenerate scions, and that many of these Princes have done only too much for the downfall of their race; but, thanks be to GOD! all the living descendants of the brave, sensible and lively Gascon, who founded the royal house of Bourbon, do not belie the spirit and the blood of their amiable and glorious ancestor. France furthermore remembers that the thrones still occupied by the Bourbons are living souvenirs of the ancient grandeurs of her past."

We suppose these extracts to indicate clearly the feeling, and to some extent, the opinion at the present time of that division of the French people whom LOUIS NAPOLEON is believed to be now trying to conciliate.

UNIFORMITY IN TEXT BOOKS.

We have several times, in these columns, called attention to the pressing need for some action which would produce uniformity in the text books used in the public schools of this Commonwealth. We have now the satisfaction of seeing this subject brought to the notice of the present Legislature, in such a form and by such an authority as leads us to hope that some attempt will be made to secure the needed reform.

In his message just submitted to the Legislature, Governor GEARY, with characteristic regard for everything which concerns the real welfare of the people, writes as follows:

"Your attention is particularly invited to the want of uniformity and constant change of books in the public schools. These are matters of serious inconvenience and needless expense to the poor, and might easily be remedied by judicious legislation."

What may be the particular legislation which, in the estimation of the Executive, would be judicious, we know not. Neither do we know whether any particular plan has been devised of suggested. But we most earnestly hope that this very appropriate and particular mention of the matter in this important State document will not be suffered to pass unheeded; or be allowed to rest without the remedy being provided by which to obviate these very general sources of complaint and trouble.

A committee of judicious and competent educators, appointed from different sections of the State in conjunction with the State Superintendent, if properly authorized, would doubtless be able, out of existing text books, to select such a series as would subserve in every particular the wants of the schools in every district of the Commonwealth, and by their adoption, if approved by the Legislature, and the statutory provision being made, they could very speedily be introduced and the desired uniformity be secured at but little if any expense to the people.

But another question is involved in the reform, and that is the matter of cheapening these essential requisites in securing the educational advantages provided by the common school system. For the accomplishment of this purpose, and to prevent high rates being put upon the books, it is obvious that the State should have some direction and control over their publication. How that direction and control are to be secured may be matters concerning which there may be differences of opinion; and adversity of plans may be suggested. Thus, it may appear to one that the series should be copy-righted, the copy-right be held by the State, and the books be printed where and by whom the Legislature should direct. In such a plan, if existing text-books were selected, some method must be devised by which, while a reasonable remuneration should be afforded to the author or owner, the State should be protected against extortionate charges.

It might, perhaps, happen that text-books could be prepared expressly for the State, and the right to the publishing of which should be in the State authorities. A list of such books as would compose a suitable series might be made out by the State Superintendent or a committee of the Legislature appointed for that purpose, and the preparation of them be offered for competition, certain rates being affixed for such as should be accepted, the best of each kind to be taken and at once adopted.

The printing and publication of the books could be done by letting it out by special contract to the lowest responsible bidders. The immense business which this would put into the hands of those who obtained the contract would give a handsome remuneration, even at a very small profit on each book, and the payment to the State of a very small percentage on the sales, would soon repay all that would be expended in the preparation of the books, and their first introduction into the schools; while it would not so add to the selling price as to prevent them from being furnished at a less cost than are the books of the numberless publishers now in use.

Or the State could assure the management of the whole matter; establish a Bureau of Public Printing; do its own printing and publishing of every kind; issue good and substantially bound books, and furnish them to the people at the lowest possible rates at which they would pay expenses and not be a tax upon the revenues of the State.

However these things are done, the points to be attained are text books of the greatest possible excellency, uniformity throughout the State, constancy and deliverance from the frequent and oftentimes arbitrary changes, and the furnishing of the books as cheaply as possible, so as to lighten the expense of acquiring education as much as is practicable.

THE TYNGS AND THEIR ENEMIES.

No doubt there is a portion of the public who are almost as much interested in the bulletins of polemical controversy as in the bulletins of sanguinary war. To their minds the champion of a creed, or of a single dogma, or of some iota or tittle of ceremony is almost as interesting a character as the hero who hazards his life at the cannon's mouth. The first appearance of such a champion is noted; his first skirmish or mere guerrilla adventure is commented upon with critical approval; his gradual rise in fame, and his increasing efficiency in cut and thrust are watched with a certain admiration even by his enemies, and when at last many laurels weigh down his honored head, the trophies of many years of warfare, there are many admirers to recount his exploits, and to boast how they anticipated his polemic glories from his first appearance in the lists. Then there are others—feebler spirits—to whom these debates about "mint, anise and cummin"—about the hang of a theological garment or the color of a bit of theological millinery—are an offense. They are, perhaps, unable to comprehend how, in a world so full of sin and sorrow, men can be at once sensible and sincere in the agitation of subjects which no rational man under any circumstances is able to deem of more than very subordinate importance. Do these warriors of whom the TYNGS and the COTTON SMITHS may be regarded as the leaders, believe that the Gospel is the only remedy for man's lost condition, and that men around them are daily and hourly perishing in want of it? If this is their belief, how can they fritter away their precious time and waste their transcendent abilities in the comparatively unimportant task of establishing their own right of preaching in the pulpits of other denominations? Have they not pulpits of their own to preach in? Are not the streets and the market-places open to them? Even supposing the canons of their church prohibiting them to fraternize with other denominations to be wrong, or to have no real existence in the sense alleged, why keep up this ado about it, while they are permitted and have opportunity to preach to the full extent of their desire and power, where nobody will interfere with them? "Alas for the blind minds of men!" How frequently we see it:

"The soul subsides and wickedly inclines
To seem but mortal even in sound divines."

But these divines and their friends may reply—we desire to rid our church of an odious feature of apparent illiberality, and to exercise a right which we possess. The argument is plausible, but not satisfactory. If the constitution of their church imposes upon them painful fetters, let them leave it at once, or let them appeal, not to sectarian feeling, but to the ruling powers of their own church for the removal of the restraints. Should their appeal prove unsuccessful, they can then leave it with general sympathy. But if the alleged illiberality is merely the dogma, or the whim of prominent men within its pale, what is the great harm? Does it either hurt or mortify the earnest Methodist, or Lutheran, or Presbyterian minister that the Rev. Dr. High-and-Dry denies the validity of his commission to preach, because he has not been ordained in a certain way? If he feels any other internal effect from the knowledge of Dr. High-and-Dry's opinions, than an almost irresistible tendency to uproarious laughter, he must be pronounced too void of a sense of the humorous to be of any use in the ministry. Let him betake himself to some mechanical employment. Does it distress or wound any clergyman of decent intellect and attainments in knowledge and grace, to know that the Rev. Mr. Soft-and-Soggy deems his ministry essentially defective because he does not wear a certain garment? If any clergyman, regardless of man-millinery, does feel himself disturbed on that account, we earnestly advise him to abstain from preaching for a year; to visit daily the alleys, the jails and the police quarters of any large city, and every evening in addition to his ordinary devotional reading to peruse carefully and with meditation a chapter or two of the writings of Mr. ARTHUR PENDENNIS. If he is unmarried let him avoid refined female society. Careful attention to health is also advisable. Under this regimen we should confidently anticipate complete deliverance from the disturbance occasioned by the knowledge of Mr. Soft-and-Soggy's opinion. In sober sadness we believe that in the present spiritual condition of Christendom there is enough to make all clergymen of all denominations forget, or at least lay aside their petty grounds of difference and act as if they were men with brains and hearts instead of mere phantasms under those designations.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION AT HARRISBURG.

Our information from Harrisburg is to the effect that there will be little difficulty in passing a Free Railroad law, and probably the Connellsville bill also, in the House, but that the opposition will make a determined stand in the Senate, the less numerous body. Here, we understand, they have strong expectations of succeeding; not, however, we feel authorized to say, through any failure on the part of Senator GRAHAM to appoint the Railroad Committee in that body in sympathy with those measures. The Chairman of the Senate Committee, it is understood, will be Senator COLEMAN, of Lebanon, and the majority will be in sympathy with him. In substituting Mr. COLEMAN for Mr. LANDON, Speaker GRAHAM will deserve and will receive the thanks of the friends of improvement in every quarter of the State. But his duty was no more plain or imperative than is the obligation which rests on every other Republican Senator to support liberal Free Railroad Law; otherwise the pledge made by the party in the last State Convention is worthless and the making of it a fraud. But pledged as the Republican party is, and instructed as the Republicans in the Legislature are, they have but one course to pursue, and we hope to see the Free Railroad Bill made the measure of the party, so that the pledge given at Williamsport will be certain to receive full and prompt redemption. That pledge contemplates no bogus or evasive enactment; but a fair, *bona fide* Free Law, hampered by no restriction to render it inoperative—a hollow performance and fraud on the people. We hope, therefore, that no time will be lost, but that the Republicans will early agree to stand in a body in support of the measure to which the party is in the most solemn manner pledged, and which is required by the best interest of the State.

DEATH OF ROMULUS L. BAKER.

ROMULUS L. BAKER departed this life at Economy, on Saturday morning, January, 11th, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

In the death of Mr. BAKER, the Society of Economy loses one of its oldest and most important members. When, on the death of GEORGE RAPP, in 1847, "the society selected seven elders for the management of their social concerns," they chose two trustees to conduct their foreign business. Of these trustees Mr. BAKER was one, and in addition to his share of the duties of this office, he has for many years officiated as the spiritual leader and instructor of the community, with occasional assistance from Mr. HENRICI, the other trustee. In both these characters—we have always understood—he was greatly reverenced by the people of Economy; while among the general public he has enjoyed an enviable reputation for integrity in business transactions and for kindness of heart.

THE real estate transactions of Mr. SEWARD are variously estimated at Washington, and the fate of some of them is yet doubtful. As to the Alaska purchase, it seems to be conceded that it will be consummated and the money appropriated—in fact there is no way of honorably getting away from it. Not so, however, as to St. Thomas, about which Mr. SEWARD himself appears to entertain a "sober second thought." This purchase originated with the Navy Department as far back as 1864, when as now the acquisition was urged on the ground that we may sometime or other have a foreign war, when a mid-ocean port would be a very convenient thing to have in the family. The recent earthquakes not only interrupted the voting by the inhabitants of St. Thomas on the proposition, but assisted to develope the feeling in the United States against the purchase. The Senate Committee is believed to be decidedly opposed to it, Mr. SEWARD having no more than three of the nine votes. The Island of Samana is the next strip of land coveted. For this the negotiations commenced a year or two ago, when Mr. FREDERICK SEWARD made the formal offer of two million dollars—half cash in hand and half in war vessels. The proposition was rejected, the negotiation dropped, and that for St. Thomas taken up. But lately a representative of the Dominican Government has appeared in Washington, offering to sell or life-lease Samana, and Mr. SEWARD is for closing the bargain. He argues that by obtaining a foothold now, in twenty-five years, Manifest Destiny and the Monroe Doctrine will place us in possession of the whole group of the West Indies. If Mr. SEWARD can discover favor enough in Congress he will commence the negotiation.

THE formal presentation for the Presidency of GEORGE H. PENDLETON, Of Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia—not one of which will vote for him against General GRANT—makes him a formidable competitor for the Democratic nomination. While other candidates are getting ready he is obtaining advantages which his friends estimate very highly, and which place him decidedly ahead in the race. If the party can be satisfied with him, certainly the Republican party will not be otherwise than pleased; in fact, of the entire list of Democratic aspirants—ANDREW JOHNSON alone excepted—Mr. PENDLETON is the very man for the Republicans to beat easiest and worst.

GEN. HANCOCK undertook to make color the test of fitness by ordering colored men out of the jury box. Since then Judge HOWE, in New Orleans, has been compelled to dismiss a white jury because they did not "possess the requisite intelligence." The test of the judge—that is, intelligence—is the only true one for both jurymen and voters. Gen. HANCOCK simply made himself ridiculous.

A Humbug or What?

George Francis Train, who sailed Wednesday for Europe, says, in a letter to James Gordon Bennett, and published in the *Revolution*, that he made in Australia, in 1853, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars; that James McHenry and Sir Morton Peto paid him ninety-eight thousand dollars for his services in helping to build the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad; that his *Credit Mobilier* Company, with a capital of $10,000,000, pays from 50 to 100 per cent. dividend yearly, and is worth 200 in the market; and, finally, that he owns five thousand lots in the city of Omaha, worth six thousand dollars each, or, all together, thirty millions. What a millionaire, either in imagination or reality, George Francis must be!

IN a foot-note to Commissioner Wells's report, the sales in Pittsburgh by the retail dealers in spirituous liquors is given at $9,912,360. This is doubtless an under, rather than an over statement; and it would be safe to say, that more than ten millions of dollars have been expended in the retail traffic in the poisonous and destructive compounds that go under the name of spirituous liquors. This is an immense sum to go out of the pockets of the people for that which is not only waste, but for what is actually injurious, and a means of unfitting, oftentimes, for the right performance of the duties and proper attention to the interests upon which depends the public weal and prosperity. Nothing appears in the report to show how much of misery, wretchedness and beggary, how much of degradation and crime, how much of loss in all that constitutes the happiness and aids in the development of the nobler attributes of our nature, have resulted from this great expenditure of the wealth of our community. The book is unwritten, save on the tablets of that record invisible to mortal men, of the sighs, and groans, and tears, of the wife and mother, and of the privations and want of the many by this terrible and constant drain upon the earnings and resources of those who are addicted to intemperance.

COMMISSIONER WELLS, in his very able report, makes a statement as the conclusion reached after an extensive inquiry, which must be gratifying to every American. It is this: "That the United States is the only one of the leading nations of the world which is, at present, materially diminishing its debt and reducing its taxes; and the only one, moreover, which offers any substantial evidence of its ability to pay its debt within any definite period, or even anticipate the probability of any such occurrence." Let Congress, accepting this as the starting point, and instead of spending time over propositions for the speediest payment of the debt, arrange a plan whereby the payment will be postponed fifty years. The interest and a moderate annual contribution to a sinking fund will be enough for the nation to carry, consistent with the development of its resources and recovery from the effects which the war of the rebellion otherwise inflicted.

IN connection with the depressed condition of the manufacturing interests of our country, it may be stated that no cotton or woolen goods can be manufactured at present, except at a loss, although the raw materials are selling at much less than the cost of production. The increase of spindles, since the commencement of the war, has been large—nearly fifty per cent.—while the markets have been reduced nearly one-third. Congress is delaying the reduction of the tax on cotton, which will prevent planting in many districts, and we may see the strange anomaly of our manufacturers seeking their supplies from Egypt and the new cotton countries. The cost of producing cotton the past year is estimated to have been about six-teen cents per pound, the tax being two and one-half cents. Together with transportation, and incidental charges, this has reduced the actual return to the planter to about ten cents, thus involving such a loss as must drive capital and industry to some more advantageous employment.

A great sensation has been created in Denmark by the scandalous particulars recently published about the antecedents of the notorious Countess Danner, the widow of the late King Frederick the Seventh. It appears from the details that Countess Danner was the issue of an incestuous union, her parents being brother and sister. She is a native of Rhenish Prussia, and was as a young girl was distinguished alike for her surpassing beauty and her dissolute life. After giving birth to an illegitimate child, she married a tavern keeper at Mühlheim, near Cologne, on the Rhine, and her beauty speedily attracted to the tavern as travelers to her husband's hotel, which was generally known as "Hotel of the beautiful Landlady." One day a Danish artist from Copenhagen stopped there and was smitten with her charms that he laid siege to her heart and prevailed on her to elope with him to Denmark. At Copenhagen Crown Prince Frederick saw and loved her, but she turned a deaf ear to his significant proposals to marry her. It is believed that she was never divorced from her husband, the Mülheim tavern-keeper.

THE "RAMIE PLANT."—This new substitute for cotton is described by the editor of the Holly Springs (Mississippi) *Reporter*, who has seen specimens, as of a fine glossy white, even texture and great strength. It can be used separately in the manufacture of cloth, or may be combined with silk or wool. The plant itself, hardy and vigorous, is not affected by long periods of rain, and stands dry weather equally well with cotton. It has been grown with success in Mexico, where the rainy seasons are much longer than in the Southern States. It makes two crops per year, and yields from four to eight hundred pounds per acre. There is no seed, but is grown from the roots and ratoons only. After the land is once stocked, the planting is good for a number of years. The cultivation of this plant requires less labor than that of cotton, and the fibre commands in market a better price, having been sold in Liverpool at sixty-five cents per pound. Parties who have cultivated the ramie plant state that they are ready to go ahead with their experiment, and believe the culture to be a great acquisition to the country.

MR. JACOB B. BROWN, of Jefferson county, Virginia, has instituted an action to eject the United States from some twenty odd acres of land, embracing all the valuable water power at Harper's Ferry. Mr. Brown claims under a patent from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and denies that the title of the United States extends to the land in controversy. The property in dispute is estimated to be worth at least a million of dollars. Daniel J. Young, the defendant and the ordnance officer in charge of the interests of the United States at Harper's Ferry, has filed a plea to the court to dismiss the case as to him, upon the ground that he does not such an interest and possession of the property as would authorize an action of ejectment against him. But Judge Hall has twice overruled the motion. A few days ago a *writ of certiorari* awarded by Chief Justice Chase was served upon Judge Hall, restraining him from further proceedings in his court and ordering that all the original papers in the cause be removed before the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of West Virginia, held at Parkersburg.

THE importance of advertising in dull times is thus strongly put in the New York *Tribune*: "In the meantime how are business men to keep afloat? Prudence and economy of course are the two great lessons to be learned; but there is one part of these lessons which in dull times is especially apt to be forgotten. Be sure of one thing: whatever you have to sell, there are many people ready to buy, even in the most depressed seasons. Find them out; show them your wares; persuade them to buy of you rather than another. Then buyers, not reluctant, sellers must be active. It is neither cheap nor sensible to sit still behind your counter and wait for the bustle of trade to revive. When business is dull, that is when you most need to advertise. In the first place, that is when you most need to advertise; and in the second, that is when people devote most time to reading the newspapers, and when your advertisement consequently is most generally seen."

THEY have pleasant interludes in the Virginia Convention. One occurred on Thursday last. It was in this wise: Mr. Hunnicutt, replying to a speech by Mr. Gibson, called Henry A. Wise and R. M. T. Hunter traitors. This brought Mr. F. W. Hunter, Conservative delegate and relative of the ex-Senator, to his feet, who said, "If you say R. M. T. Hunter is a traitor you are a liar, and I hurl the lie in your teeth." Mr. Liggatt then arose and approved the language of Hunter. A Mr. Goggin, a colored member, moved that the parties be reprimanded. The Chair was bewildered. Many began to feel for their pistols, and amid the confusion one revolver dropped on the floor. The matter was finally referred to a committee.

A MACHINE for making wrought-iron and brass-butt hinges has been invented in Paris, and has lately been brought to this country. Sheet iron or sheet brass is employed, of proper thickness. The hinges are made complete for market in one single machine. Two strips of metal enter the machine on one side from coils; in the passage the edge is rolled to a coil of wire, which enters and forms the hinge rivets, the screw holes and countersinks all being made in one operation. One hundred hinges of the ordinary size have the machine a minute, in addition to be packed for market. A machine will make five different sizes of butts—four inch hinges being made at the rate of from twenty-five to thirty per minute.

FOR a quarter of a century the acutest minds of England have been settling down in the conviction that Francis and Junius were identical. The recent curious posthumous work of Mr. Parkes has lapsed into comparative silence, confirms all the old testimony, and brings out many new circumstances that aid in clearing away the film of doubt that hung over the inquiry. In the dedication of his collected letters to the English nation, Junius uttered the famous prophecy: "I am the sole depositary of my own secret, and it shall perish with me." Junius began to write in 1769. Sir Philip Francis died in 1818. Though he concealed his secret with such skill that its discovery baffled the researches of his contemporaries and his immediate posterity, we think it has not perished with him.

RECONSTRUCTION.

WASHINGTON, January 11.—The Reconstruction Committee held a long meeting this morning, and after some discussion it was agreed to report the following bill, which will be laid before the House on Monday:

Be it enacted &c., That in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas there are no civil State governments, and the governments in said States resp